



DELAGUA CLEAN COOKING GROUPED PROJECT IN SIERRA LEONE



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PROJECT DETAILS

1.1 Summary Description of the Implementation Status of the Project

The grouped project involves dissemination of energy-efficient, biomass improved cookstoves (ICS) to replace existing traditional biomass cookstoves in domestic households within rural areas of Sierra Leone. The grouped project has two project activity instances (PAI-1 & PAI-2) till the end of this monitoring period.

The distribution of the project ICSs begun on 22-February-2023 under the PAI-1. This date is also the start date of the grouped project and the start date of crediting period for this project. Till the end of monitoring period, total 270,211 ICSs have been distributed throughout Sierra Leone and are the part of this MP. During the current monitoring period, the project has achieved GHG emission reduction of 959,354 tCO_{2e}.

Technology/ Measures

The ICSs disseminated under the grouped project are based on a “rocket stove” and designed to improve fuel combustion and heat transfer. The project stoves improve heat transfer to cooking pots through the insulated walls and design of the stove top when compared to traditional cooking methods over open- and three-stone fires. The ICS distributed are a tier 3 cooking devices, leading to a reduction in the indoor air pollution (reducing smoke levels, black soot, and particulate matter (PM) emissions), time spent on collection of firewood used for cooking a specified quantity of meal, and reduction in the usage of firewood compared with the pre-project scenario. The reduction in consumption of cooking fuel also reduces equivalent greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions attributed to the use of non-renewable biomass.

For the current monitoring period, the PAI-1 to PAI-2 includes dissemination of Burn Kuniokoa G2 stoves and Ecoa wood G3 stoves with the following specification:

and Ecoa wood G3 stoves with the following specification:		
Name of the ICS	Kuniokoa Generation 2	Ecoa wood Generation 3
Manufacturer	Burn	Burn
Type	Natural Draft	Natural Draft
Material	Stainless Steel	Stainless Steel
Dimensions	32.1 cm Height, 28.2 cm Diameter	28.5 cm Height, 26.9 cm Diameter
Thermal efficiency	With Pot skirt – 51.3%, Without pot skirt – 43.4%	With Pot skirt – 52%, Without pot skirt – 45.5%
Power Output	2.9 kW	2.8 kW
Lifetime	10 Years	10 Years
Photo		

1.2 Audit History

Audit type	Period	Program	Validation/verification body name	Number of years
Validation	22-February-2023 – 21-February-2030	VCS	Carbon Check	7 years (First Crediting Period)
verification	22-February-2023 – 30-April-2023	VCS	Carbon Check	0.186 year (68 days)
Verification	1-May-2023 – 11-February-2024	VCS	LGAI Technology Center, S.A (Applus+)	0.786 year (287 days)
Verification	12-February-2024 – 11-February-2025	VCS	LGAI Technology Center, S.A (Applus+)	1 year (366 days)
Verification	12-February-2025 – 31-October-2025	VCS	LGAI Technology Center, S.A (Applus+)	0.718 year (262 days)

1.3 Sectoral Scope and Project Type

Sectoral scope ¹	03 – Energy demand
Project activity type	Type II – Energy efficiency improvement projects

1.4 Project Proponent

Organization name	DelAgua Health Sierra Leone (Voluntary) Limited
Contact person	Rory McDougall
Title	Commercial and Finance Director
Address	c/o Cafferata & Co., Poinciana & West Mall Drive, Freeport, Grand Bahama, P.O. Box F-42614, Commonwealth of the Bahamas
Telephone	+352 661 939 304
Email	vcsprojects@delagua.org

1.5 Other Entities Involved in the Project

There are no other entities involved in this project.

1.6 Project Start Date

Project start date	22-February-2023
Justification	The date of the first distribution of ICS under the grouped project.

¹ Projects, activities, or methodologies may be developed under any of the 16 VCS sectoral scopes: <https://verra.org/programs/verified-carbon-standard/vcs-program-details/#sectoral-scopes>

1.7 Project Crediting Period

Crediting period	☒ Seven years, twice renewable ☐ Ten years, fixed ☐ Other (state the selected crediting period and justify how it conforms with the VCS Program requirements)
Start and end date of first or fixed crediting period	22-February-2023 – 21-February-2030

1.8 Project Location

Host Country: Sierra Leone

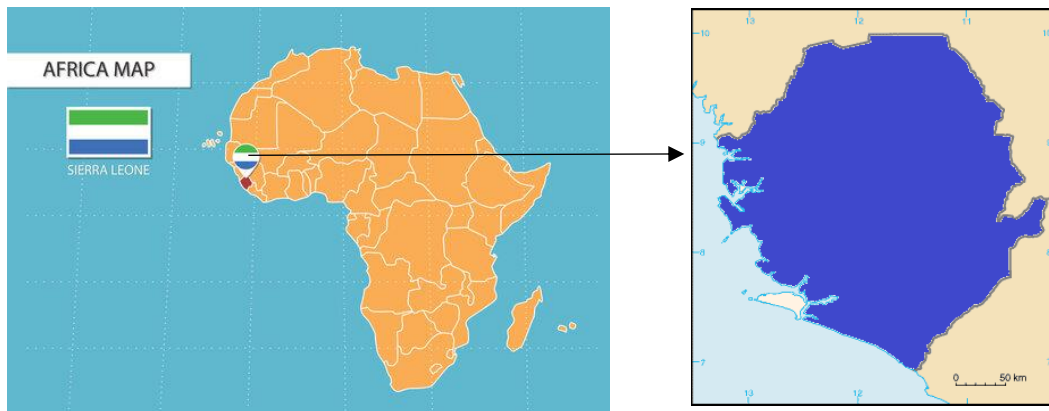
Region: All Regions of Sierra Leone

District/Constituency/Village etc.: All Districts; Constituency; and Village in Sierra Leone

Physical/Geographical location:

The project boundary is the geographic borders of Sierra Leone. The project boundary for each Project Activity Instance under the grouped project is the physical, geographical location of the ICS distributed within the geographical boundaries of Sierra Leone. The grouped project has two PAI till the end of this monitoring period, which is within the geographical boundary of the grouped project.

Also, each individual distribution under the project technology records the geographical administrative boundaries of each distributed ICS (Region; District; Chiefdom; Village), which can be verified from the recorded data (monitoring surveys). The KML file indicates the geographical boundaries of the host country Sierra Leone.



The project boundary is defined by the following GPS coordinates: 8° 26' 58.20" N and 11° 47' 12.58" W.

1.9 Title and Reference of Methodology

Type (methodology, tool or module).	Reference ID, if applicable	Title	Version
Methodology	VMR0006	VMR0006 - Energy Efficiency And Fuel Switch Measures In Thermal Application https://verra.org/wp-content/uploads/imported/methodologies/VMR0006-Methodology-for-Installation-of-High-Efficiency-Firewood-Cookstoves-v1.1.pdf	1.1
Tool	CDM Tool:30 ²	TOOL30: Calculation of the fraction of non-renewable biomass	Version 4.0
Guideline	-	Guideline: Sampling and surveys for CDM project activities and programmes of activities	Version 4.0
Standard	-	Standard: Sampling and surveys for CDM project activities and programmes of activities	Version 9.0

1.10 Double Counting and Participation under Other GHG Programs

1.10.1 No Double Issuance

Is the project receiving or seeking credit for reductions and removals from a project activity under another GHG program?

☐ Yes ☒ No

1.10.2 Registration in Other GHG Programs

Is the project registered or seeking registration under any other GHG programs?

☐ Yes ☒ No

1.11 Double Claiming, Other Forms of Credit, and Scope 3 Emissions

1.11.1 No Double Claiming with Emissions Trading Programs or Binding Emission Limits

Are project reductions and removals or project activities also included in an emissions trading program or binding emission limit? See the *VCS Program Definitions* for definitions of emissions trading program and binding emission limit.

☐ Yes ☒ No

² <https://cdm.unfccc.int/methodologies/PAmethodologies/tools/am-tool-30-v4.0.pdf>

1.11.2 No Double Claiming with Other Forms of Environmental Credit

Has the project activity sought, received, or is planning to receive credit from another GHG-related environmental credit system? See the *VCS Program Definitions* for definition of GHG-related environmental credit system.

☐ Yes ☒ No

1.11.3 Supply Chain (Scope 3) Emissions

Do the project activities affect the emissions footprint of any product(s) (goods or services) that are part of a supply chain?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes:

Is the project proponent(s) or authorized representative a buyer or seller of the product(s) (goods or services) that are part of a supply chain?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes:

Has the project proponent(s) or authorized representative posted a public statement on their website saying, "Carbon credits may be issued through the Verified Carbon Standard project [project ID] for the greenhouse gas emission reductions or removals associated with [project proponent or authorized representative organization name(s)] [name of product(s) whose emissions footprint is changed by the project activities]."

☐ Yes ☐ No

1.12 Sustainable Development Contributions

The following sustainable contributions are expected to be associated with the distribution of ICS in Sierra Leone:

1. The project activity reduces the indoor air pollution levels to a significant level, thereby reducing the risks people face with the 3 stone fires or the traditional cooking devices. The number of deaths among children per year accounted to the indoor household air pollution is high in Sierra Leone, and lack of quality health interventions at local level increase the risk further. The lower respiratory disease risk and improved indoor air quality reduces the mortality rates caused due to it.
2. Women in Sierra Leone spend a significant amount of time every day to collect firewood. While using ICS, the less amount of fuel used for cooking means that they must spend less time in the field

collecting wood. This time saved by the women can be used towards better management of household, or can be used towards any livelihood or income generating activity, e.g. farming, poultry, animal products, etc. The project ICS models claim to reduce fuel usage by more than 60% than their baseline consumption. This saves a significant amount of firewood fuel usage per household on daily basis, which consequently allow them to lead a healthy life.

3. The project activity provides indirect employment to the distribution team and provides them with the per diem for their services. These contractual workers supports the distribution and act as the point of program's connectivity with the households. The project activity has a permanent staff working from the office in the capital city of Sierra Leone i.e., in Freetown, and the management has an office in Kigali (Rwanda). Both contractual staff as well as permanent staff increases continuously, based on the program's success. The workforce are trained from time to time, in order to meet the requirements of the monitoring data recorded at the time of project ICS distribution.
4. The GHG emissions caused by the burning of firewood reduces by the usage of project ICS. The reduction in the firewood consumption compared with the baseline levels provide the amount of GHGs avoided, by application of VCS methodology VMR0006, ver. 1.1.

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Table 1: Sustainable Development Contributions

Row number	SDG target	SDG indicator	Net impact on SDG indicator	Current project contributions	Contributions over project lifetime
1)	3.9	3.9.1 Mortality rate attributed to household and ambient air pollution	Decrease	Mortality rate attributed to HH and ambient pollution decreases for those HHs using the DelAgua improved cookstove. The improved design specifications of the project ICS model(s) ensure there is very less pollution in the households. The survey results demonstrate that 97.71% of households confirmed reductions in the smoke level. Out of the total households of the Sierra Leone, a total of 264,023 HHs now have less risk towards respiratory ailments due to smoke inside their homes due to the implementation of this project.	Till the end of this monitoring period, 264,023 households now have less risk towards respiratory ailments due to smoke inside their homes due to the implementation of this project as compared to the baseline.
2)	12.8	By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature	Increase	Due to grouped project the team involved in the distribution of ICS being provided training, who further educates the end user HHs about the sustainable cooking practices and awareness on climate change impacts. The end users have been provided with training on how usage of improved cookstove contributes to sustainable development in host country. Total 270,211 households being under current monitoring period imparted with such awareness and knowledge.	Till the end of this monitoring period, 270,211 households were educated about stove usage and to apply sustainable cooking practices.
3)	5.4	Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age and location	Decrease	Survey results show 90.08% of respondents stating that they have reduced the amount of time tending fire and collecting wood. 243,396 Households affected	Till the end of this monitoring period, a total of 243,396 households were positively affected.

4)	8.3	8.3.1 Proportion of informal employment in total employment, by sector and sex	Increase	As part of the project activities (distribution and education campaign) DelAgua employs local community members. To manage activities up to this point have created ~1,822 roles 53 Permanent, 1,769 Contract). Out of these 1,822 employees, 388 are female and 1,434 are male.	Till the end of MP4, a total of 1,822 employment has been created with the project activity. Out of these 1,822 employees, 388 are female and 1,434 are male.
5)	7.3	7.3.1 By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency	Increase	For this GP, the baseline scenario is the households using traditional wood cook stoves. This project increases the adoption rate of efficient cookstoves. The outcome of SDG 7 is measured by the number of efficient cookstoves operation during the project. 270,211 HHs received ICS up to this point.	Till the end of this monitoring period, 270,211 households now have access to clean cooking when compared with the baseline.
6)	8.1	8.1 Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances and, in particular, at least 7 per cent gross domestic product growth per annum in the least developed countries.	Increase	Survey results show that 52.67% of households purchase wood. As project devices reduce wood consumption 142,325 HHs have been impacted	Till the end of this monitoring period, a total of 142,325 households were positively affected.
7)	13.0	Tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions avoided or removed	Increase	959,354 tCO2e saved during the current monitoring period.	Till the end of this monitoring period, a total of 1,291,165 tCO2e emissions have been reduced by the project activity.

1.13 Commercially Sensitive Information

No commercially sensitive information has been excluded from the public version of the project description.

2 SAFEGUARDS AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

2.1 Stakeholder Engagement and Consultation

2.1.1 Stakeholder Identification

Stakeholder Identification	The primary stakeholders for the project are the recipients of the improved cookstoves. These are beneficiaries in rural households across Sierra Leone. Secondary stakeholders are the Paramount Chiefdoms who represent the Chiefdoms in which the project is being delivered. The other secondary stakeholder is the Ministry of Energy, which is responsible for promoting clean cooking within Sierra Leone. The stakeholder profile remains the same for the recent consultations conducted, involving local government representatives, Paramount Chiefs, and traditional community leaders.
Legal or customary tenure/access rights	As the project is not a land use project, there are no legal or customary tenure issues or access rights that are impacted by the project. Irrespective, DeAGua has an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in place with the Ministry of Energy as well as Collaboration Agreements in place with the Paramount Chiefs in each area in which the project is being delivered.
Stakeholder diversity and changes over time	The primary stakeholders in the project are rural households across Sierra Leone. Sierra Leone is made up of over 16 ethnic groups which each have their own particular languages and customs, in addition to national languages and customs. DeAGua is delivering the project nationally to all areas of the country, irrespective of varying ethnicities. The stakeholder profile remains the same for the recent consultations conducted as well.
Expected changes in well-being	Household air pollution (HAP) is estimated to lead to 3.2 million ³ premature deaths globally each year, with the majority of those occurring in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia ⁴ . By providing improved cookstoves and education on the benefits of clean cooking, the project will see positive changes in health. In addition, clean cooking has been

³ <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/household-air-pollution-and-health>

⁴ <https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/indoor-pollution-deaths-1990-2017>

	shown to contribute towards 10 SDGs, such as gender equality and zero hunger, meaning the project will produce positive changes in well-being beyond health.
Location of stakeholders	Primary stakeholders are located in rural communities across Sierra Leone. Paramount Chiefs are also located in rural communities across Sierra Leone, whilst the Ministry of Energy is headquartered in Freetown (capital city.)
Location of resources	As this is not a land use project, this is not applicable.

2.1.2 Stakeholder Consultation and Ongoing Communication

Ongoing consultation	DelAgua maintains regular communication with the Ministry of Sierra Leone via meetings and quarterly reports. This has occurred since the project began. With the Primary stakeholders, DelAgua conducts households visits to each beneficiary at least once per year, allowing for continuous opportunities for consultation and communication. All households have the opportunity to raise grievances during this household visit. With Paramount Chiefs, specific consultation events were held in 2023 (prior to Chiefs signing Collaboration Agreement.). Similarly before distribution in this MP, specific consultations were conducted across 55 chiefdoms in Kambia, Kenema, Koinadugu, Moyamba, and Tonkolili District from November 2024 to June 2025, and collaboration agreements were signed with the respective Paramount Chief / district authorities. These consultations were completed before the distribution of new ICS units in 2025. Attendees at these meetings included local government officials, as well as traditional leaders from the communities. This process ensures that the project is clearly communicated and well understood at all levels. Further, the PP has the grievance redressal procedure which ensures that stakeholders have access to a transparent and easily accessible system for ongoing consultation and resolution of grievances related to the project. The key aspects of the process are as follows: 1. Grievance Registration: Stakeholders, including end users, can voice their grievances through multiple channels: • Submitting grievances via the company's website at https://www.delagua.org/Contactus/ • Submitting a field level grievance in person (see below). This individual will then escalate the grievance to the correct grievance manager. 2. Field-Level Escalation Mechanism:
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	Local individuals employed as field staff and resource persons act as intermediaries to escalate grievances received from project beneficiaries in their respective zones. During the course of their regular field work and household visits, these staff members ensure that concerns are promptly and accurately communicated to the Project Proponent (PP). If a grievance is highlighted to a local individual, they are instructed to escalate the grievance to their line manager who can log the grievance at the local office location in Freetown, Sierra Leone. 3. Grievance Logbook and Periodic Visits: • A grievance logbook is maintained at the local office in Freetown and reviewed monthly to address concerns raised. • Field staff conduct regular visits to project households, as stated above this is at least once per annum providing a direct means of communication and consultation with stakeholders. These measures are in place to facilitate effective communication and resolution of grievances, demonstrating the project's commitment to stakeholder engagement and inclusivity.
Date(s) of stakeholder consultation	The stakeholder consultation was conducted prior to validation at national level on 24 October 2022. Further specific consultations were held from November 2024 to June 2025 across 55 chiefdoms in Kambia, Kenema, Koinodugu, Moyamba, and Tonokolili Districts.
Communication of monitored results	No substantive issues were raised that required communication of monitored results.
Consultation records	DelAgua has provided records of the Local Stakeholder Consultation conducted on 24th October 2022 during the validation. DelAgua has also provided chiefdom/districts level consultation records to VVB which includes collaboration agreement with Paramount Chief and attendance sheets for each chiefdom. For ongoing stakeholder consultation, DelAgua maintains a grievance register in light of any specific grievances or feedback being raised.
Stakeholder input	There was no substantive feedback from the consultations that required any material changes to the project design. However, engagement with all stakeholders helped provided a better understanding of local contexts to enable smooth ICS distributions and to better understand times and locations in which distributions could take place.

2.1.3 Free, Prior, and Informed Consent

Consent	Prior to commencing the project, DelAgua signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Ministry of Energy to distribute improved cookstoves to rural households across Sierra Leone. Following this, DelAgua has signed Collaboration Agreements with the Paramount Chief in each Chiefdom that the project has been delivered in (to date.) At the household level, participation in the project is entirely voluntary. Primary stakeholders have been approached to ask if they wish to sign up to receive a free improved cookstoves. Beneficiaries are free to decline participation without any obligation or penalty. The same consent-based approach is followed during ongoing stakeholder consultations. No ongoing or unresolved conflicts relevant to the project were identified during stakeholder consultations or project implementation. The project does not involve land acquisition, does not affect access to natural resources, and does not introduce activities that could exacerbate or influence the outcomes of any existing local, social, or political conflicts. During the current monitoring period, no grievances or complaints related to conflict or community disputes were recorded.
Outcome of FPIC	The project does not require land acquisition, does not involve construction of permanent infrastructure, and has not encroached on land. No households or individuals have been relocated, and there has been no physical or economic displacement, whether forced or otherwise. DelAgua operates under an MoU with the Government of Sierra Leone (through the Ministry of Energy) that ensures we are operating with government approval and requires us to regularly report to government. At the community and household level, participation in the project is entirely voluntary. Each beneficiary household provides informed consent prior to stove distribution, and beneficiaries are free to decline participation without any obligation or penalty. There is no change for current MP.

2.1.4 Grievance Redress Procedure

Grievances received	Resolution and outcome
No grievances received during the monitoring period.	Not applicable
The grievance redressal procedure ensures that stakeholders have access to a transparent and easily accessible system for ongoing consultation and resolution of grievances related to the project. The key aspects of the process and means of communications are as follows: 1. Grievance Registration: Stakeholders, including end users, can voice their grievances through multiple channels: - o Submitting grievances via the company's website at https://www.delagua.org/Contactus/ - o Submitting a field level grievance in person (see below). This individual will then escalate the grievance to the correct grievance manager. 2. Field-Level Escalation Mechanism: Local individuals employed as field staff act as intermediaries to escalate grievances received from project beneficiaries in their respective zones. During the course of their regular field work and household visits, these staff members ensure that concerns are promptly and accurately communicated to the Project Proponent (PP). If a grievance is highlighted to a local individual, they are instructed to escalate the grievance to their line manager who can log the grievance at the local office location in Freetown, Sierra Leone. 3. Grievance Logbook and Periodic Visits: - o A grievance logbook is maintained at the local office in Freetown and reviewed monthly to address concerns raised. - o Field staff conduct regular visits to project households, as stated above this is at least once per annum providing a direct means of communication_and consultation with stakeholders. These measures reflect the project's commitment to proactive stakeholder engagement and transparent grievance management.	

2.1.5 Public Comments

The project was open for public comment from 16-January-2023 to 15-February-2023 (<https://registry.terra.org/app/projectDetail/VCS/3837>). No comments were received during the public comment period.

2.2 Risks to Stakeholders and the Environment

2.2.1 Management Experience

DelAgua has been delivering cookstove projects for over 10-years and has several active projects listed under VERRA. DelAgua does not sub-contract any of the implementation of this project to non-DelAgua entities. Thus, DelAgua management teams have expertise or experience in implementing similar project activities and engaging communities.

The operational management team for this project are Sierra Leone nationals with deep experience of rural delivery of services and government engagement.

Senior management of DelAgua manage multiple projects across multiple jurisdictions with deep experience in Carbon Methodologies, Research, Data Analysis and management of large-scale development projects. DelAgua staff are well-trained, with prior experience in distribution and monitoring. They received training on the questionnaire before conducting the surveys.

2.2.2 Risk assessment

	Risk identified ⁵	Mitigation or preventative measure taken
Natural and human-induced risks to stakeholders' wellbeing	Natural Threat: The climate crisis and natural disasters can precipitate displacement and migration, resulting in the relocation of households.	The grouped project involves distribution of ICS that are portable and lightweight. Consequently, users of the project's ICS can easily carry them in case relocation becomes necessary.
Risks to stakeholder participation	No risk identified	The stakeholder consultation process has already been completed in accordance with the VCS requirements. All relevant stakeholders were identified prior to the consultation meeting and informed through appropriate means such as posters, public notices, and community channels. Stakeholders were consulted during project development, and their feedback was duly addressed. The project has demonstrated strong community support and is expected to contribute positively to the social, economic, and environmental development of stakeholders directly or indirectly impacted by the grouped project. Stakeholder engagement will continue throughout the project's implementation to ensure transparency, inclusiveness, and

⁵ The section remains unchanged based on the recent consultations conducted. The stakeholder profile continues to be the same, involving local government representatives, Paramount Chiefs, and traditional community leaders; hence, the risk assessment remains unchanged.

		responsiveness to community needs.
Working conditions	DelAgua staff at risk from working in remote locations	DelAgua maintains a health, safety & security policy for all staff in Sierra Leone.
Safety of women and girls	Women and girls are exploited as a result of participating in the project	DelAgua ensures all staff follow a clear Code of Conduct that they sign up to upon recruitment. This policy is regularly updated and enforced.
Safety of minority and marginalized groups, including children	Children are recruited to deliver the project.	DelAgua maintains a policy on child labour which all staff, suppliers and vendors are required to adhere to. This policy is regularly updated and enforced.
Pollutants (air, noise, discharges to water, generation of waste, release of hazardous materials and chemical pesticides and fertilizers)	No risk identified	The project does not involve the manufacture, trade, release, and/or use of hazardous and non-hazardous materials. Although end-of-life disposal of improved cookstoves may result in waste generation in the future, no disposal activities have occurred during the current monitoring period, as all stoves distributed under the project remain within their expected operational lifetime of approximately 10 years. The project is at an early implementation stage, with the earliest stoves distributed in 2023. The project proponent holds responsibility for safe end-of-life management as per agreements with the Government of Sierra Leone, and a structured disposal and recycling framework is under development for implementation as stoves approach the end of their useful life. Accordingly, no pollution or waste-related risks have materialized during this monitoring period.

2.3 Respect for Human Rights and Equity

2.3.1 Labor and Work

Risks identified ⁶		Mitigation or preventative measure(s) taken
Discrimination	Risk of discrimination based on gender, race, religion, sexual orientation or other habits	DelAgua maintains several HR policies for staff as well as a safeguarding policy for beneficiaries. These policies are maintained, monitored and implemented by DelAgua's HR unit. No instances of discrimination were record during this monitoring period.
Sexual harassment	Risk of sexual harassment	DelAgua maintains several HR policies for staff as well as a safeguarding policy for beneficiaries. These policies are maintained, monitored and implemented by DelAgua's HR unit. No instances of sexual harassment were record during this monitoring period.
Gender equity in labor and work	Risk of gender inequalities in recruitment process	DelAgua maintains recruitment policies that specifically commit the organization towards gender equity. Where possible, DelAgua works to try to increase female recruitment into the organization
Forced labor	Risk of illegal act of recruiting, transporting, harboring, or receiving people through force, fraud.	DelAgua maintains policies on forced labour and requires that all staff, suppliers and vendors agree to adhere to these policies.
Child labor	Children are recruited to deliver the project.	DelAgua maintains policies on child labour and requires that all staff, suppliers and vendors agree to adhere to these policies.

⁶ The identified risks and commensurate mitigation or preventative measure(s) for forced labor, child labor, and human trafficking, must be inclusive of staff and contracted workers employed by third parties.

Human trafficking	Risk of illegal act of recruiting, transporting, harboring, or receiving people through force, fraud.	DelAgua maintains policies on forced and child labour and requires that all staff, suppliers and vendors agree to adhere to these policies.
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2.3.2 Human Rights

Risks identified	Mitigation or preventative measure(s) taken
No risk identified	The project involves the distribution of improved cookstoves to individual households. In the context of this project, there are no legal or customary tenure/access rights to territories and resources, including collective and conflicting rights held by stakeholders, indigenous people (IPs), local communities (LCs), or customary rights holders. The primary stakeholders are given the opportunity to provide their details if they wish to receive a free improved cookstove. It is entirely their choice whether to sign up or to decline. Once they have signed up, stoves are distributed irrespective of tribal, ethnic, religious or political backgrounds of the beneficiaries. Beneficiaries are not forced or coerced to use the stoves during ongoing monitoring work.

2.3.3 Indigenous Peoples and Cultural Heritage

Risks identified	Mitigation(s) or preventative measure taken
No risk identified	As the project is focused exclusively on the free provision of improved cookstoves, there is no impact on cultural heritage as part of project activities. Primary stakeholders are invited to give their name during the beneficiary data collection progress if they wish to receive an improved cookstove. They are not compelled to do so, nor are they told to change their traditional practices beyond being encouraged to use their improved cookstove for future cooking events.

2.3.4 Property Rights

Risks identified	Mitigation or preventative measure(s) taken
No risk identified	The GP and its PAIs involves distribution of improved cookstove to households and communities in Sierra Leone and it does not require acquisition of property, hence no impact on any property rights. Hence, this is not applicable.

2.3.5 Benefit Sharing

Summary of the benefit sharing plan	Not applicable. The project activity involves distribution of improved cookstoves to individual households and it does not require acquisition of property.
Benefit sharing during the monitoring period	Not applicable.

2.4 Ecosystem Health

	Risk identified	Mitigation or preventative measure taken during the monitoring period
Impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems	No risk identified.	The ICS reduces GHG emissions through its better design and improved performance as compared to traditional stove, without changing the baseline fuel or introducing additional pollutants. Therefore, the project has no impact on biodiversity and ecosystems.
Soil degradation and soil erosion	No risk identified.	The project stoves directly decrease wood fuel demand and reduce the pressure from wood cutting within the project boundary. Thus, project activity will indirectly avoid erosion associated with tree cutting/ felling.
Water consumption and stress	No risk identified.	The by-products (ash and smoke) of the project's ICS match the baseline scenario, as there's no fuel change. This prevents any additional impact on natural watercourses, groundwater, or watersheds, including seasonal flow variations, flooding risks, aquatic connectivity issues, or water scarcity.

2.4.1 Rare, Threatened, and Endangered species

Not applicable, the grouped project is not located in, or adjacent to habitats for rare, threatened, or endangered species.

2.4.2 Introduction of species

Not applicable, the grouped project does not involve introduction of any species.

2.4.3 Ecosystem conversion

As the project is not an ARR⁷, ALM, WRC or ACoGS project, ecosystem conversion considerations are not applicable.

3 IMPLEMENTATION STATUS

3.1 Implementation Status of the Project Activity

The grouped project involves dissemination of energy-efficient, biomass improved cookstoves (ICS) to replace existing traditional biomass cookstoves in domestic households of Sierra Leone. The grouped project has two project activity instances (PAI-1 & PAI-2) till the end of this monitoring period. The distribution of the project ICSs begun on 22-February-2023. In total 270,211 ICS have been distributed since the beginning of the project. The detailed distribution of ICS, categorized by district and region. is tabulated below:

District & Region wise ICS Distribution				
District	Region	PAI-1	PAI-2	Total Number of ICS Distributed
Bo	Southern	3,970	2,178	6,148
Bonthe	Southern	2,912	0	2,912
Falaba	Northern	3,013	0	3,013
Kambia	NorthWest	3,882	29,537	33,419
Kenema	Eastern	3,937	66,946	70,883
Koinadugu	Northern	0	30,986	30,986
Kono	Eastern	4,842	0	4,842
Moyamba	Southern	0	41,775	41,775
Tonkolili	Northern	3,980	62,782	66,762
Western Area Rural	Western	0	9,471	9,471
Grand Total		26,536	243,675	270,211

During the current Monitoring Period:

- Total 243,675 ICS (Ecoa Generation 3) ICS have been distributed.
- Follow-up educational visits to previous recipients of the project devices took place to ensure clear knowledge and understanding of the correct use and maintenance of the stoves.

⁷ ARR - Afforestation, Reforestation and Revegetation, ALM - Agricultural Land Management, WRC- Wetlands Restoration and Conservation, ACoGS - Avoided Conversion of Grasslands and Shrublands

3.2 Deviations

3.2.1 Methodology Deviations

There are no methodology deviations in this monitoring period.

3.2.2 Project Description Deviations

There are no project description deviations in this monitoring period.

3.3 Grouped Projects

Being a Grouped Project Activity, section 1.4 of the registered PD sets the criteria for inclusion of new project activity instances under this project. The grouped project already has only one PAI (PAI 1) at the time of previous MP. There is one additional PAI i.e., PAI 2 was added in this monitoring period.

This PAI follows each criterion outlined in section 1.4 of the registered PD as follows:

Eligibility Criteria

Eligibility criteria as per section 3.6.10 to 3.6.15 of the VCS Standard v4.7:

Criterion	How the new project activity instances comply	Evidence
3.6.10 Grouped projects shall specify one or more clearly defined geographic areas within which project activity instances may be developed. Such geographic areas shall be specified using geodetic polygons	Each PAI will have clearly defined geographic areas and such area will be specified using geodetic polygons.	PAI 2 has been implemented within the geographical boundary of the grouped project i.e., within the geographic borders of Sierra Leone. Refer section 1.8 above.
3.6.11 Determination of baseline scenario and demonstration of additionality are based upon the initial project activity instances. The initial project activity instances are those that are included in the project description at validation and shall include all project activity instances currently implemented on the issue date of the project description.	Baseline scenario and demonstration of additionality shall be based upon the initial project activity instances	Baseline scenario and additionality has been demonstrated for the overall GP which is included at the time of validation in section 3.4 and 3.5 of the VCS-PD. There are no changes in the Baseline scenario for PAI -2. In line with the initial PAIs, PAI 2 also provides ICS free of cost, and hence are automatically additional through the activity method. Therefore, there are no changes in additionality, as it has already been validated.
3.6.12 Where a grouped project includes multiple project	The project activity(ies) that are included in GP shall define their geographic area	Similar to PAI1, PAI-2 includes distribution of improved cookstoves to households

Criterion	How the new project activity instances comply	Evidence
activities, the project description shall designate which project activities may occur in each geographic area.	in project description section of the VCS PD, and/or Joint Project Description & Monitoring Report.	that are dependent on traditional cookstoves using woody biomass for cooking.
3.6.13 The baseline scenario for a project activity shall be determined for each designated geographic area, in accordance with the methodology applied to the project.	Baseline scenario for a project activity shall be determined for each designated geographic area, in accordance with the methodology applied to the project	PAI 2 is in the same geographical area and within the geographical boundary of the grouped project. Further, the baseline scenario for PAI 2 is same as the initial PAI (PAI-1) that have already undergone validation. Baseline scenario has been determined for overall GP for Sierra Leone. For details refer section 3.4 of the VCS PD.
3.6.14 The additionality of the initial project activity instances shall be demonstrated for each designated geographic area, in accordance with the methodology applied to the project	Additionality for a project activity instance shall be determined for each designated geographic area, in accordance with the methodology applied to the grouped project.	In line with the initial PAIs, PAI 2 also provide ICS free of cost, and hence are automatically additional through the activity method. Therefore, there are no changes in additionality, as it has already been validated. Additionality has been determined as per the applied methodology for Sierra Leone being the only Geographical Area for the GP. For details, refer section 3.5 of the VCS - PD.
3.6.15 Where factors relevant to the determination of the baseline scenario or demonstration of additionality require assessment across a given area, the area shall be, at a minimum, the grouped project geographic area. Examples of such factors include, inter alia, common practice; laws, statutes, regulatory frameworks, or policies relevant to demonstration of regulatory surplus; determination of regional grid emission factors; and historical deforestation and degradation rates	All the factors relevant to the determination of baseline or demonstration of additionality shall be done for the geographical boundary of the grouped project	Since, new PAI has the same baseline scenario and is automatic additional (through activity method by distributing ICS free of cost, similar to initial PAIs), hence this is not applicable.

Eligibility criteria as per section 3.6.16 and 3.6.17 of the VCS Standard v4.7:

S No	Criterion	How the new project activity instances comply	Evidence
1	Project Activity Instances (PAIs) must meet the applicability conditions set out in the applied methodology.	PP shall demonstrate compliance with VMR0006 version 1.1 in the VCS PD as applicable.	ICS distributed under PAI 2 follow the same applied methodology, VMR0006 ver. 1.1, in line with Section 3.2 of the registered PD, and meet each applicability criterion listed therein, thereby justifying the applicability of the applied methodology.
2	Use the technologies or measures specified in the project description.	Only ICS that conform with the GP description are to be distributed in the project. The ICS will be chosen to deliver a level of service at least equivalent to the baseline appliance.	Manufacturer's specifications. The ICS distribution under PAI-2 are Ecoa wood generation 3 stoves, which is as per technology description of the grouped project, refer section 1.1 above.
3	Apply the technologies or measures in the same manner as specified in the project description.	Only ICS that conform with the GP description are to be distributed in the project. The ICS will be chosen to deliver a level of service at least equivalent to the baseline appliance.	Manufacturer's specifications. The ICS distributed under new PAI reduces fuel wood consumption due to better thermal efficiency and replaces the baseline traditional stoves, the same can be checked with distribution record and sample survey results.
4	Are subject to the baseline scenario determined in the project description for the specified project activity and geographic area.	All new PAIs will be implemented only in regions within the geographic borders of Sierra Leone subject to the same baseline scenario determined in Section 3.4 in this Project Description. The geographical location of the project ICS can be traced through the information provided in the distribution database, which includes the location data of the ICS distributed.	ICS Distribution database for each PAI records distribution (end user registration database) with clear delineation of project boundary i.e. host country of Sierra Leone is provided to the VVB for their reference. Refer section 1.8 above.

S No	Criterion	How the new project activity instances comply	Evidence
5	Have characteristics with respect to additionality that are consistent with the initial instances for the specified project activity and geographic area.	All new PAIs will use the activity method for demonstration of additionality. Step 1: Regulatory Surplus There is no government mandated programme or policy in host country of this project ensuring the distribution of new project activity instances. Step 2: Positive List The inclusion of new project activity instances will comply with the positive list as it satisfies criterion 1 where it meets all the applicability conditions of the methodology. Where the project activity installs or distributes stoves at zero cost to the end-user and has no other source of revenue other than the sale of GHG credits, the project activity shall be deemed additional.	Step1: Regulatory Surplus There is no mandatory legal requirement for installation of cookstoves in households/institutions of Sierra Leone. Step 2: Positive List Further, the PP distributing ICS (even under new PAI as well) free of cost to end users, hence there is no revenue stream than sale of VCUs, hence the project activity instances are automatically additional. The above can be checked with end user agreement and declaration from PP on the same.
6	Where a capacity limit applies to a project activity included in the project, no PAI shall exceed such limit. Further, no single cluster of project activity instances shall exceed the capacity limit, determined as follows: Each device that exceeds one percent of the capacity limit shall be identified. Such instances shall be divided into clusters, whereby each cluster is comprised of any system of instances such that each instance is within one kilometer of at least one other instance in the cluster. Instances that are not within one kilometer of any other	The GP does not have any specified capacity limits applicable, since there are no capacity limits defined within the applied methodology. Therefore, this eligibility criteria is not applicable.	N/A

S No	Criterion	How the new project activity instances comply	Evidence
	instance shall not be assigned to clusters. None of the clusters shall exceed the capacity limit and no further project activity instances shall be added to the project that would cause any of the clusters to exceed the capacity limit.		
Eligibility conditions specific to inclusion of New PAIs			
7	The new PAI must occur within one of the designated geographic areas specified in the project description	The distribution of the ICS will be based on a MoU signed with the Government of Sierra Leone, and therefore, the project activity only distributes to the beneficiaries that are provided in Ubudehe based list of the districts. There is no way this program/GP can distribute ICS in the boundaries of the neighbouring countries of Sierra Leone. This requires passing of the project ICS through customs and other procedural regulations.	PAI 2 has been implemented within the geographical boundary of the grouped project i.e., within the geographic borders of Sierra Leone. Refer section 1.8 above. 1. The distribution database for each PAI. The evidence in line with above is shared with VVB.
8	The new PAI must comply with at least one complete set of eligibility criteria for the inclusion of new project activity instances. Partial compliance with multiple sets of eligibility criteria is insufficient.	The eligibility criteria set must be complied by the PAIs at all points in time throughout the crediting period. If at any point, it is found that the PAI is not complying with the set of eligibility criteria, then it may be excluded from the crediting for the duration of the monitoring period, until it is able to demonstrate the compliance of the eligibility criteria.	All the PAIs including new PAI meets the eligibility criteria for inclusion under grouped project activity. The MR will act as the documentary compliance summary.
9	The new PAI must be included in the monitoring report with sufficient technical, financial, geographic and other relevant information to demonstrate	The new PAI will include all the technical, financial, geographic and other relevant information related to the	The MR for the specific monitoring period will act as the supporting evidence for the stated condition/requirement.

S No	Criterion	How the new project activity instances comply	Evidence
	compliance with the applicable set of eligibility criteria and enable sampling by the validation/verification body.	compliance of the applicable set of eligibility criteria & also enable sampling by the VVB.	Each PAI are part of VCS grouped project validation/verification, hence no further assessment is required.
10	The new PAI must be validated at the time of verification against the applicable set of eligibility criteria.	The new PAI(s) shall be part of the monitoring, and therefore, will be validated against the criteria specified, by a VCS accredited/approved VVB.	The Verification Report based on the VCS template issued by the approved VVB, will act as the supporting evidence against this requirement. Each PAI are part of VCS grouped project validation/verification, hence no further assessment is required.
11	The new PAI must have evidence of project ownership, in respect of each project activity instance, held by the project proponent from the respective start date of each project activity instance (i.e., the date upon which the project activity instance began reducing or removing GHG emissions).	The PAI related evidence on the project ownership will be in the form of a distribution end user receipt poster. This will be signed by the end user, and a photograph of him/her holding the poster along with the ICS will be saved in the PAI database.	1. A photograph of the PAI distribution first end user holding the poster along with the ICS. 2. A scan of the poster, showing the first distribution date. 3. The distribution database of the GP stating the start date. Waiver of carbon credits from the end users are submitted to the VVB.
12	The new PAI must have a start date that is the same as or later than the grouped project start date.	The new PAI will have a start date later than the GP start date.	This can be verified through the GP distribution database, wherein each new PAI can be verified for its start date. New PAI (PAI-2) start distribution in 2025, which is much later than the start date of GP i.e., 22 February 2023.
13	The new PAI must be eligible for crediting from the later of start date of the project activity instance or the start of	The PAI will be only eligible for the crediting from its start date through to the end of	1. The start date of the PAI can be checked through the distribution database.

S No	Criterion	How the new project activity instances comply	Evidence
	the verification period in which they were added to the grouped project through to the end of the project crediting period (only).	the project crediting period (only).	2. The end date of the GP crediting shall be referenced from the VCS Project Registry webpage. 3. The overlap of monitoring periods may be checked through the previous monitoring reports (available publicly on VCS project registry webpage for those periods). Each PAI is eligible for crediting from the start date of the instance through to the end of the project crediting period
14	The new PAI shall not be or have been enrolled in another VCS project .	It will be ensured that the PAI that is being enrolled under the VCS GP was not previously enrolled under any other VCS project, and will not be enrolled under other VCS project if it is removed from the VCS GP.	New PAI in this MP was neither enrolled under any other program and nor removed from any program.
15	The new PAI shall adhere to clustering requirement that states the project proponent shall include in a singular project all project activity instances within ten kilometers of another instance of the same project activity and with the same project proponent	It will be ensured that PAI included within 10 kilometers of another instance of the same project activity by the same PP is in a singular project	New PAI involves distribution of improved cookstoves by same PP within 10 kilometers hence included in the same project. There are no other project instances by the same PP distributed within 10 kilometers for the same project activity.

3.4 Baseline Reassessment

Did the project undergo baseline reassessment during the monitoring period?

☐ Yes

☒ No

4 DATA AND PARAMETERS

4.1 Data and Parameters Available at Validation

Data / Parameter	Bold
Data unit	tons/annum
Description	Annual quantity of woody biomass that would have been used in the household in the absence of the project activity to generate useful thermal energy equivalent to that provided by the project devices
Source of data	Sourced from baseline KPTs conducted in host country according to KPT ver 4.
Value applied:	8.321
Justification of choice of data or description of measurement methods and procedures applied	This parameter has been fixed ex-ante. Refer registered PD.
Purpose of Data	Calculation of emission reductions
Comments	Bold has been remain fixed for the entire crediting period

Data / Parameter	η_p
Data unit	Fraction
Description	Efficiency of project stove at the start of project activity
Source of data	Manufacturer's Specifications
Value applied:	Kuniokoa Generation 3: 0.4340 for project stove without skirting 0.5130 for project stove with pot skirting S32-X: 0.4570 for project stove without skirting 0.5010 for project stove with pot skirting
Justification of choice of data or description of measurement methods and procedures applied	This data is fixed ex-ante as per applied methodology VMR0006 ver. 1.1. Refer registered PD.
Purpose of Data	Calculation of η_{new}
Comments	A pot-skirt is distributed along with the project stove. If at the time of monitoring, the pot skirt is identified as not being used, then the parameter will be calculated as a weighted average of the efficiency of a skirted stove and a non-skirt stove for the number of ICS with (and without) skirt.

Data / Parameter	$NCV_{biomass}$
Data unit	TJ/ton
Description	Net calorific value of the non-renewable woody biomass
Source of data	Default value from applied methodology VMR0006 Ver 1.1
Value applied:	0.0156 TJ/tonne
Justification of choice of data or description of measurement methods and procedures applied	N/A
Purpose of Data	Calculation of emission reductions

Comments	-
Data / Parameter	$EF_{wf\ CO2}$
Data unit	ton CO2/TJ
Description	CO2 emission factor for woody biomass
Source of data	Default value from applied methodology VMR0006 Ver 1.1
Value applied:	112 tCO2/TJ
Justification of choice of data or description of measurement methods and procedures applied	N/A
Purpose of Data	Calculation of emission reductions
Comments	-
Data / Parameter	$EF_{wf\ non-CO2}$
Data unit	ton CO2/TJ
Description	Non-CO2 emission factor for woody biomass
Source of data	Default value from applied methodology VMR0006 Ver 1.1
Value applied:	26.23 tCO2/TJ
Justification of choice of data or description of measurement methods and procedures applied	N/A
Purpose of Data	Calculation of emission reductions
Comments	-
Data / Parameter	Leakage Factor
Data unit	Fraction
Description	net to gross adjustment factor to account for the leakage
Source of data	Default as per VMR0006, ver. 1.1, Section 8.3
Value applied:	0.95
Justification of choice of data or description of measurement methods and procedures applied	In-line with the applied methodology VMR0006, ver. 1.1 Section 8.3.
Purpose of Data	Calculation of emission reductions
Comments	-
Data / Parameter	$f_{NRB,y}$
Data unit	Fraction
Description	Fraction of woody biomass that can be established as non-renewable biomass
Source of data	Third party report in line with TOOL 30 Version-04
Value applied	0.68
Justification of choice of data or description of measurement methods and procedures applied	This parameter has been fixed ex-ante. Refer registered PD
Purpose of Data	Calculation of emission reductions
Comments	-

4.2 Data and Parameters Monitored

Data / Parameter	$N_{y,i,j}$
Data unit	Number
Description	Number of project devices of type i and batch j operating during monitoring period y
Source of data	Monitoring surveys
Description of measurement methods and procedures applied	PP maintains a database of all ICS distributed. The usage rate of installed ICS has been measured based on a representative sample. PP has applied the latest version of Standard for sampling and surveys for CDM project activities and program of activities, ver 9.0 and latest version of CDM Guideline: Sampling and surveys for CDM project activities and programmes of activities, ver 4.0 for determining the sample size
Frequency of monitoring/recording	At least once every two years
Value applied	270,211
Monitoring equipment	Surveys
QA/QC procedures applied	N/A
Purpose of data	Calculation of emission reductions
Calculation method	This parameter is calculated by multiplying the proportion of operational stove identified during monitoring surveys with the total number of ICS distributed under the project activity.
Comments	1. This parameter only accounts for the number of project ICS that are identified as operating in the monitoring period. 2. Here, the batch j is not segregated in a PAI. Every distribution under a PAI may be considered as a separate batch.

Data / Parameter	η_{old}
Data unit	Fraction
Description	Efficiency of baseline stove
Source of data	Calculated using the Default value as specified in VMR0006 methodology and the data obtained through during first monitoring surveys, refer registered PD
Description of measurement methods and procedures applied	If the device is a three stone fire using firewood (not charcoal), or a conventional device with no improved combustion air supply or flue gas ventilation, that is without a grate or a chimney, a default value of 0.1 is used as per the applied methodology; for other types of devices, a default value of 0.2 is used.
Frequency of monitoring/recording	Fixed for each individual household at the time of project implementation
Value applied:	0.1130
Monitoring equipment	N/A
QA/QC procedures applied	N/A
Purpose of data	Calculation of emission reductions.
Calculation method	N/A
Comments	As per the methodology, this value has been fixed for each household that receives project ICS, during the project crediting period. To be updated at renewal of crediting period.

Data / Parameter	$\eta_{new,i,j}$		
Data unit	Fraction		
Description	Efficiency of the device of each type i and batch j		
Source of data	Calculated as per the equation 5 of the applied methodology		
Description of measurement methods and procedures applied	Efficiency of the improved cookstoves was estimated using equation (5) above where loss in efficiency per year is calculated, and therefore no direct measurement is involved.		
Frequency of monitoring/recording	Annually		
Value applied:	Efficiency values for the ICS distributed calculated as per equation 5:		
	ICS Distribution Year	2023 (Kuniokoa G2)	2025 (Ecoa wood G3)
	With pot skirt	0.4726	0.4888
	Without pot skirt	0.3998	0.4277
	Monitored value of Pot-skirt usage	100.00%	99.52%
	Weighted Average Efficiency	0.4726	0.4885
	For detailed calculation, refer ER sheet.		
Monitoring equipment	N/A		
QA/QC procedures applied	N/A		
Purpose of data	Calculation of emission reductions		
Calculation method	As per equation (6) above		
Comments	The stove has different efficiencies based on the usage of the pot skirt. Surveys were conducted to determine the number of cooking events that occur with and without a pot skirt.		
	The final value of efficiency was calculated as a weighted average of the efficiency of a skirted stove and a non-skirted stove, taking into consideration the usage of pot skirt. Here, the batch j is not segregated in a PAI. Every distribution under a PAI may be considered as a separate batch.		

Data / Parameter	μ_y
Data unit	Fraction
Description	Adjustment to account for any continued use of pre-project devices during the year y
Source of data	Monitoring
Description of measurement methods and procedures applied	PP has applied the latest version of Standard for sampling and surveys for CDM project activities and program of activities, ver 9.0 and latest version of CDM Guideline: Sampling and surveys for CDM project activities and programmes of activities, ver 4.0 for determining the sample size. This parameter was monitored using the following methods: The sampled households were checked for presence of baseline stove and if it was being used along with project ICS for cooking. For samples where baseline cookstoves are decommissioned and no longer used, $\mu_y = 0$, and Bold, adjusted is equal to Bold.

	For samples where the baseline stove is found to be in use, the value of μ_y was determined by taking average of ratio of frequency of usage.	
Frequency of monitoring/recording	At least once every two years	
Value applied:	2023	2025
	0.0741	0.0678
Monitoring equipment	N/A	
QA/QC procedures applied	N/A	
Purpose of data	Calculation of emission reductions	
Calculation method	N/A	
Comments	To calculate the value of this parameter, following question were asked during the monitoring surveys: <i>"How many times a week are using the Live Fyn stove?"</i> <i>"How many times a week are you using your 3-stone fire?"</i> <i>"How many times a week do you use other "Non-DelAgua" Stoves</i>	

Data / Parameter	Date of commissioning of batch j
Data unit	Date
Description	To establish the date of commissioning, the Project Participant may opt to group the devices in "batches" and the latest date of commissioning of a device within the batch shall be used as the date of commissioning for the entire batch.
Source of data	Distribution database
Description of measurement methods and procedures applied	Recorded once at the time of distribution for each project activity instance
Frequency of monitoring/recording	Once
Value applied:	22-February-2023
Monitoring equipment	N/A
QA/QC procedures applied	N/A
Purpose of data	Calculation of emission reductions
Calculation method	N/A
Comments	N/A

Data / Parameter	Life span
Data unit	Years
Description	The operational lifetime of project device
Source of data	Manufacturer's specifications
Description of measurement methods and procedures applied	The operational life of cookstove is sourced from manufacturer specification.
Frequency of monitoring/recording	Once at the time of installation of batch of type of stove
Value applied:	10 years
Monitoring equipment	N/A
QA/QC procedures applied	N/A
Purpose of data	Calculation of emission reductions

Calculation method	N/A
Comments	The emission reduction from each project stove can be claimed till 10 years operational lifetime of the project stove from date of commissioning. For onward if PP willing to claim emission reduction PP may replace project stove with new improved cookstoves subject to baseline applicability at the time of replacement.

4.3 Monitoring Plan

The VCS Grouped Project in *Sierra Leone* follows VCS standard requirements applicable, along with the methodological requirements on monitoring a grouped non-AFOLU large project activity. The Monitoring Plan is elaborated in multiple sub-sections for the sake of clarity.

1. Methods for measuring, recording, storing, aggregating, collating and reporting on monitored data and parameters

A project database was populated during the distribution of each initial cookstove issued. The database is accessible to the project proponent, appropriate partners, and the verification VVB. The database includes, at minimum, the following:

- Date of Distribution
- Geographic area of distribution;
- Model/type of project technology distributed
- Quantity of project technology distributed
- Name, telephone number (where available), and address of recipient; and
- Unique alpha/numeric ID for each device that is distributed

The database is used to select a random, representative sample for monitoring and verification purposes. Monitoring surveys includes examination of the cookstove distributions and verification that they are in an operational condition.

Data collected from the surveys was compiled into an Excel spreadsheet. Data obtained from the samples were used to estimate proportions and mean values for the parameters described in below sub-sections. The values then factored into the emissions reduction calculations.

The data recorded in the monitoring surveys is collected and stored electronically, and then uploaded to the central database management system, where it is maintained online on a subscription-based server host.

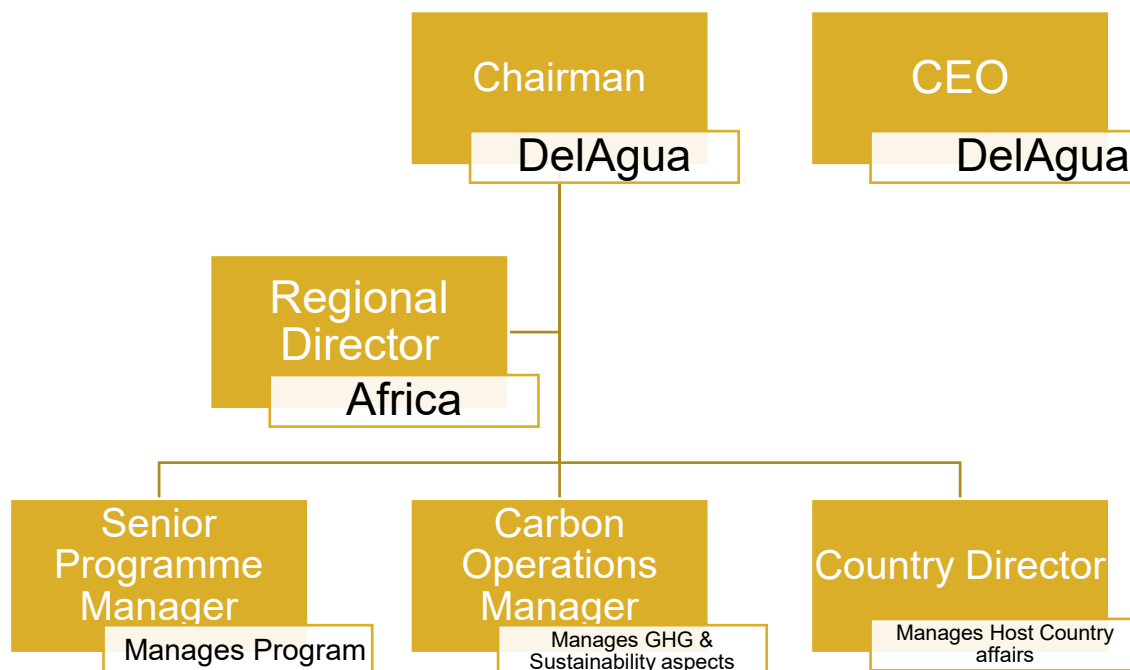
The data will be also stored offline, within the hard disk drives. The data collection procedures do not involve any paper records, to reduce the environmental footprint of the programme.

The project related data will be stored for two years after the implementation period is over for the project activity.

2. Organizational Structure, Role, and Responsibilities of Personnel Involved in the Project Activity

The DelAgua team involved in the GHG operations management is the local staff based in Sierra Leone along with the senior management.

The key responsibilities are shared by the team as follows:



Chairman – Supervises the overall programme at strategy and financial side.

CEO – Acts as central point of strategy, programme management, finance, and technical domains

Regional Director – Responsible for the regional level programme implementation and expansion planning and implementation.

Director Business Intelligence – Manages the programme at implementation level, and acts as an internal technical reviewer for the programme documents and procedures.

Carbon Operations Manager – Manages the operations for GHG emission mitigation programme, from planning to implementation stage. Additionally, manages the Sustainability aspects of the programme.

Country Director – Supports programme in the operations and management at the host country level and acting as point of communication between DelAgua and government of *Sierra Leone*.

The collective responsibilities of DelAgua as the Project Participant is as follows:

- Acts as the project managing entity
- Development of PD

- Registration/Issuances of the project with VERRA
- Inclusion of new PAIs upon satisfaction of the eligibility criteria stipulated in the PD
- Authorized entity for any official communication with the VERRA and VVB
- Manage and archive the database for all appliances
- QA/QC of database during distribution & data collection
- Maintain local repair/replacement facilities
- Education and public awareness raising during initial distribution as well as periodic education campaigns.
- Data collection during distribution & delivery of data to database
- QA/QC of data collection
- Conduct ongoing monitoring, as required to ascertain monitored parameters.

3. The procedures for Internal Auditing and QA/QC

The quality assurance and quality control of the programme is managed by the quality management standard of DelAgua. The following points summarize the DelAgua view on quality:

- i) Wherever any instrument is used in the program for meeting any of the objectives, it is ensured that the team involved is competent and trained for the operation, handling, and maintenance of the same.
- ii) The teams involved in the programme operations are trained on a periodic basis, to cater for any of the improvements/updates introduced to the programme.
- iii) Surveys are conducted by staff trained by DelAgua.
- iv) The quality of programme is maintained throughout its operation period. The documents are reviewed internally and checked for compliance with the latest applicable VCS standard version before being sent to VVBs.
- v) There are safeguards defined to maintain the degree of reliability and conservativeness prior to stating any claims on the performance of the programme in its operations. These safeguards are defined in-line with the requirements of the VCS Standard.

4. Procedures for handling non-conformances with Validated Monitoring Plan

The personnel engaged in monitoring and reporting underwent training to ensure a comprehensive understanding and proper execution of the monitoring and reporting procedures outlined in the monitoring plan. DelAgua is responsible for training any contractors used during distribution, education and monitoring activities. DelAgua ensures training of all on-site staff with respect to adherence to the Monitoring Plan of the project activity. Training records are saved for such training programs, where step-by-step training is provided to the surveyors for a quality data collection process, where they are expected to

not impact the materially, degree of conservativeness, and perform the surveys in an unbiased manner. The surveyors are trained on a periodic basis, and refresher trainings are also provided to improve the quality of surveys from time to time. Since the surveys are electronic in format, recording of responses and the record keeping procedure for these surveys are conveyed to the team through rigorous trainings.

The project proponent ensured that field personnel have reviewed, understood and have agreed to follow the monitoring plan procedures, including provisions for maximizing response rates, refusals and other sources of non-response. The monitoring plan explained how to properly survey households to prevent bias from interviewer. In the case a household refuses to participate, another household is chosen at random. To reduce interviewer bias, good questionnaire design and well-tested questionnaires was developed.

5. Calculation of Emission Reductions:

Emission reductions were calculated using the results of the most recent survey data. The updated parameters adjust all emission reduction results for the year monitored.

6. Sampling Plan:

The sampling plan is intended to enable the discovery of unbiased and reliable estimates of monitored parameter values used in the GHG emission reduction calculations. The sampling plan design is based on the CDM Guideline: Sampling and surveys for CDM project activities and programmes of activities, version 4.

STEP 1: Monitoring Objectives

The objective was to obtain an unbiased and reliable estimate of the proportion or mean value of the following key variables over the course of monitoring period.

- a) $N_{y,i,j}$ Number of project devices of type i and batch j operating during year y (Annual/biennial)
- b) μ_y Adjustment to account for any continued use of pre-project devices during the year y

As per Standard for Sampling and Surveys for CDM Project Activities and Programme of Activities version 9.0, 95/10 confidence/precision has been adopted as this is a large-scale project for both the parameters.

STEP 2: Target Population

Total 270,211 households are part of the PAI-1 & PAI-2 till the end of current monitoring period.

STEP 3: Sampling Frame

The sampling frame referred to all the information sources on the database. PP collected all the information sources on monitoring data through physical visit. The monitoring survey data was collected primarily through physical survey which is the primary mechanism in place for the data collection of the newly distributed ICS and the Monitoring Survey (which includes a household questionnaire and visual inspection of ICSs) which is used in the current monitoring period.

Following information were recorded during the monitoring survey.

- a. Product based Unique Identification number.
- b. Contact information, geographical location or other relevant information of the end user.
- c. Sampling frame was representative of the entire population.
- d. No elements from outside the population of interest is present for the current monitoring period. Wherever information miss-match is observed, it is corrected in the database and conservative assumptions is applied.

STEP 4: Sample Method

Sampling was conducted using stratified random sampling technique over the sampling frame, and detailed calculations are provided below as per CDM guidelines “Sampling and surveys for CDM project activities and programmes of activities” v 9.0.

To undertake random sample selection in a manner that accommodates the logistical challenge posed by the potential inclusion of ~ 150 (numbers corresponds to sample size) distinct villages and sectors, a simple random sampling method is deemed impractical. Therefore, a stratified random selection approach is employed. Initially, villages are randomly selected with the number required achieved by dividing the sample size by 5, where 5 corresponds to the anticipated number of monitoring surveys achievable in a day by a DelAgua staff member. This choice is based on the operational feasibility of one staff member being able to conduct surveys in one village per day.

To derive a stratified random sample the following method was taken in the database:

1. Take all villages that ICS were distributed to alongside a count of #ICS distributed per vintage.
2. Remove villages that had less than 50 stoves distributed within per vintage.
3. Randomly select ~25 villages from this list using the excel formula
`“##=INDEX(SORTBY([village list],RANDARRAY(ROWS([village list]))),SEQUENCE(25)).`
 Which gave a randomly selected list of 25 villages
4. Apply a Unique ID (sequential serial No.) to each distributed ICS in the database (for sampling purposes) from each of the selected villages.
5. Utilising the excel formula “=randbetween([Min UID], [Max UID]” We are able to randomly select the 5 households in each village that are within the sample.
6. To overcome operational challenges of working in remote rural areas, over sampling was done. The minimum required sample size was 54; however, PP randomly selected 135 samples, i.e., 5 samples per village. This approach allowed enumerators the utilize a household from the buffer if a selected household was unavailable due to reasons such

as being away from the family home, traveling, or engaging in income-generating activities, ensuring survey completion. Out of these 135 samples, surveys were successfully completed in 131 households.

To determine the parameters, sampling involves the following approaches:

$N_{y,i,j}$: Visual inspection of the premises to see if ICS is operational and in use. Interview with end user if required to verify that ICS is still in use (Yes/No)

$\mu_{y,i,j}$: Pre project device only is in use then fraction to be used to calculate total number, however if pre project device is used along with project ICS, proportion of usage of each was determined by cooking habits evaluated by survey questionnaire during the monitoring period.

Using the formulas below, the project proponent randomly sampled the required number of ICS from the primary sampling units.

STEP 5: Desired Precision / Expected Variance and Sample Size

To estimate the number of premises to be surveyed with a 10% margin of error at desired confidence level of 95%, the optimal sample size n is given by:

1. For proportional parameter

$$n \geq \frac{1.96^2 N \times p(1-p)}{(N-1) \times 0.1^2 \times p^2 + 1.96^2 p(1-p)}$$

Here,

Parameter	Description
n	Sample Size
N	Total number of cookstoves (ICS) distributed
p	Expected proportion
1.96	Represents the 95% confidence required
0.1	Represent the 10% relative precision

2. For mean-based parameter

$$n \geq \frac{1.96^2 NV}{(N-1) \times 0.1^2 + 1.96^2 V}$$

Here,

Parameter	Description
n	Sample Size
N	Total number of cookstoves (ICS) distributed
SD	Standard deviation
V	$(SD/\text{mean})^2$
1.96	Represents the 95% confidence required
0.1	Represent the 10% relative precision

Requirements of Guideline for Sampling and surveys for CDM project activities and program of activities, version 4.0 has been followed.

STEP 6: Minimum Sample Size⁸

- Parameter ($N_{y,i,j}$)

Sampling Constants	Values
Monitoring period start	2/12/2025
Monitoring period end	10/31/2025
Level of Sampling	Project Level
Monitoring Frequency	Annual
Confidence (%) (90 or 95)	95%
Margin of Error (%)	10%
Z value	1.960

Monitoring parameter(s)		Stove Operating Fraction for determination of $N_{y,i,j}$	
Sampling frame(s)		Given stove model and vintage population	
Sampling approach		Stratified random sampling	
Sampling Population	Sampling frame size	Expected operational proportion (SoF)	Calculated Minimum Sample Size (n)
2023	26536	0.85	5
2025	221176	0.90	41
Sample size determination			
Estimated SOF (p)			0.89
Estimated Standard Deviation of SOF (SD)			0.31
$V_{SOF} = (SD/p)^2$			0.12
Sample Size required (SOF)			45
Monitoring results			
Sampling Population	Sampling frame size	Monitored Sample Size ($n_{y,i,j,total}$)	Monitored Operating Fraction ($n_{y,i,j,operation}/n_{y,i,j,total}$)
2023	26536	31	1.00
2025	221176	100	1.00
Reliability Check			
Samples Monitored			131
SoF Measured			100.00%
Standard Error of SoF			0.000%
Relative precision (Margin of error)			0.00%
Result			Ok, reliability level met
Lower Bound confidence value			Not applicable

As per the sample size calculation, 45 samples were calculated to be surveyed, However, 131 samples were considered to compensate for any outliers or non-responses associated with samples and to get accurate results. The parameter was within the 95/10 confidence/precision.

- Parameter (μ_y)

⁸ Detailed sample size calculation of PAI-1 can be found in the ER Calculation sheet.

Monitoring parameter(s)		Utilization of Project stoves - for μ_y	
Sampling frame(s)		Given stove model population	
Sampling approach		Stratified random sampling	
Sampling Population	Sampling frame size	Expected value	Calculated Sample Size (n)
2023	26536	0.85	6
2025	221176	0.88	49
Estimated results based sample size determination			
Estimated utilization (p)			0.88
Expected Standard Deviation (SD)			0.33
$V_{Utilization} = (SD/p)^{1/2}$			0.14
Sample Size required (Utilization)			54
Monitoring results			
Sampling Population	Sampling frame size	Monitored Sample Size	Monitored Utilization
2023	26536	31	0.93
2025	221176	100	0.93
Reliability Check			
Samples Monitored			131
Utilization Measured			93.15%
Standard Error of Utilization			2.300%
Relative precision (Margin of error)			4.84%
Result			Ok, reliability level met
Lower Bound confidence value			Not applicable

As per the sample size calculation, 54 samples were calculated to be surveyed, However, 131 samples were considered for surveys conducted from 02-October-2025 to 13- October-2025. There were two reasons- firstly, common survey was conducted for $N_{y,i,j}$ and μ_y and secondly, to compensate for any outliers or non-responses associated with samples. The parameter was within the 95/10 confidence/precision.

6. Quality Assurance/Quality Control

The project proponent applied a confidence/precision of 95/10 for each monitored parameter allowing for non-response and the possible removal of outliers from the sample, as part of a Quality Control/Quality Assurance system. The choice of measure applied to both parameters i.e. number of operational cookstoves, and adjustment factors. The project proponent monitored a particular parameter till the required level of confidence/precision has been reached, as long as the calculated minimum number of samples has been achieved.

5 QUANTIFICATION OF GHG EMISSION REDUCTIONS AND REMOVALS

5.1 Baseline Emissions

There are no separate baseline emissions calculation provided in the applied methodology. Therefore, the ERs calculated as actuals has been provided in Section 5.4 below.

5.2 Project Emissions

There are no separate project emissions calculation provided in the applied methodology. Therefore, the ERs calculated as actuals has been provided in Section 5.4 below.

5.3 Leakage Emissions

Net to gross adjustment factor of 0.95 has been multiplied with the ERs calculated, thus accounting for the leakage requirements provided in the methodology.

5.4 GHG Emission Reductions and Carbon Dioxide Removals

The improved cookstove is introduced as energy efficiency measure in the project, therefore equations 1 and 2 of the methodology was applied to calculate the net GHG emission reductions.

$$ER_y = \sum_i \sum_j ER_{y,i,j} \quad \text{Equation (1)}$$

Where:

- i = Indices for the situation where more than one type/model of improved cookstove is introduced to replace three-stone fire
- j = Indices for the situation where there is more than one batch of improved cookstove of type i
- ER_y = Emission reductions during year y in t CO₂e
- $ER_{y,i,j}$ = Emission reductions by improved cookstove of type i and batch j during year y in t CO₂e

$$ER_{y,i,j} = B_{y,savings,i,j} \times NCV_{wood\ fuel} \times f_{NRB,y} \times (EF_{wf,CO_2} + EF_{wf,non\ CO_2}) \times N_{y,i,j} \times 0.95 \quad \text{Equation (2)}$$

Where:

$B_{y,savings,i,j}$	=	Quantity of woody biomass that is saved in tonnes per improved cookstove of type i and batch j during year y
$f_{NRB,y}$	=	Fraction of woody biomass that can be established as non-renewable biomass (f_{NRB})
$NCV_{wood\ fuel}$	=	Net calorific value of the non-renewable woody biomass that is substituted or reduced (IPCC default for wood fuel, 0.0156 TJ/tonne) ⁹
EF_{wf,CO_2}	=	CO ₂ emission factor for the use of wood fuel in baseline scenario (IPCC default for wood fuel, 112 tCO ₂ /TJ) ¹⁰
$EF_{wf,non\ CO_2}$	=	Non-CO ₂ emission factor for the use of wood fuel in baseline scenario (IPCC default for wood fuel, 26.23 tCO ₂ /TJ) ¹¹
$N_{y,i,j}$	=	Number of improved cookstoves of type i and batch j operating during year y
0.95	=	Discount factor to account for leakage

To calculate $B_{y,savings,i,j}$ we use Option 1 of the applied methodology¹²

$$B_{y,savings,i,j} = B_{old} \times \left(1 - \frac{\eta_{old}}{\eta_{new,i,j}}\right)$$

Where:

B_{old} = Annual quantity of woody biomass that would have been used in the absence of the project activity (in tonnes per device) to generate useful thermal energy equivalent to that provided by the improved cook stove. The value of B_{old} has been sourced from baseline field surveys.

η_{old} = Efficiency of baseline cookstove

$\eta_{new,i,j}$ = Efficiency of the improved cook stove type i and batch j determined through water boiling test (WBT).

Efficiency of the improved cookstove is calculated as per equation 5 of applied methodology as below:

$$\eta_{new,i,y} = \eta_p \times (DF_n)^{y-1} \times 0.94$$

Where:

η_p = Efficiency of project stove (fraction) at the start of project activity

DF_n^{y-1} = Discount factor to account for efficiency loss of project cookstove per year of operation (fraction). This value may be based on actual monitoring or based on manufacturer's declaration

⁹ 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories; Volume 2 Energy, Chapter 1 Introduction

¹⁰ 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories; Volume 2 Energy, Chapter 2 Stationary Combustion

¹¹ 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories; Volume 2 Energy, Chapter 2 Stationary Combustion

¹² Equation 3 of methodology VMR 0006

on expected loss in efficiency or through publicly available literature on relevant industry standards. Alternatively default value of 0.99 efficiency loss per year can be considered.

0.94 = Adjustment factor to account for uncertainty related to project cookstove efficiency test.

As some of the project households continue to use baseline cookstoves along with improved cookstoves, B_{old} has been adjusted ex-post based on the percentage of project households found to continue such practice according to the Equation 6 of applied methodology as follows:

$$B_{old,adjusted} = B_{old} \times (1 - \mu_y)$$

Where:

$B_{old,adjusted}$	=	Adjusted B_{old} to account the ex-post usage of firewood in baseline cookstove(s) by project households in addition to improved cookstove (in tonnes per device)
μ_y	=	Baseline stove usage factor to account for use of baseline cookstoves along with improved cookstoves.

The calculation of ERs for MP-4 is as follows:

Parameter	PAI 1	PAI 2	Unit	Formula
f_{NRB}	0.68	0.68	Fraction	-
$NCV_{Biomass}$	0.0156	0.0156	TJ/tonne	-
$EF_{wf,CO2}$	112	112	tCO ₂ e/TJ	-
$EF_{wf,non-CO2}$	26.23	26.23	tCO ₂ e/TJ	-
LE	0.95	0.95	Fraction	-
η_{old}	0.1130	0.1130	Fraction	-
% usage of pot-skirt	100.00%	99.52%	Fraction	-
$\eta_{new-skirt1}$	0.4726	0.4888	Fraction	$\eta_{new,i,j} = \eta_p * (DF_n)^{y-1} * 0.94$
$\eta_{new-nonskirt1}$	0.3998	0.4277	Fraction	
$\eta_{new,i,j}$	0.4726	0.4885	Fraction	$\eta_{new,i,j} = (\eta_{new-skirt} * \% \text{ usage-skirt}) + (\eta_{new-nonskirt} * \% \text{ usage-no skirt})$
-	1.00	1.00	Fraction	-
B_{old}	8.32	8.32	Tonnes / household/ year	-
μ_y	0.0741	0.0678	Fraction	-
$B_{old,adjusted}$	7.70	7.76	Tonnes / household/ year	$B_{old,adjusted} = B_{old} * (1 - \mu_y)$
$B_{y,savings}$	5.86	5.96	tonnes	$B_{y,savings,i,j} = B_{old,adjusted} * (1 - (\eta_{old}/\eta_{new,i,j}))$
-	26,536	243,675	Number	-
-	0.72	0.40	Fraction	-
$N_{y,i,j}$	26,536	243,675	Number	-
-	19,048	96,763	Number	-
ER_y	155,565	803,789	tCO ₂ e	$ER_y = B_{y,savings,i,j} * f_{NRB} * NCV_{Biomass} * (EF_{wf,CO2} + EF_{wf,non-CO2}) * N_{y,i,j} * 0.95$
		959,354	tCO ₂ e	

For detailed calculations, refer ER sheet.

Below table illustrates of emission reductions achieved over the crediting period till MP4.

Vintage period	Baseline emissions (tCO ₂ e)	Project emissions (tCO ₂ e)	Leakage emissions (tCO ₂ e)	Reduction VCUs (tCO ₂ e)	Removal VCUs (tCO ₂ e)	Total VCUs (tCO ₂ e)
22-February-2023 - 30-April-2023	2,078	0	0	2,078	0	2,078
01-May-2023 - 31-December-2023	115,911	0	0	115,911	0	115,911
01-January-2024 - 11-February-2024	19,870	0	0	19,870	0	19,870
12-February-2024 - 31-December-2024	171,695	0	0	171,695	0	171,695
01-January-2025 - 11-February-2025	22,257	0	0	22,257	0	22,257
12-February-2025 - 31-October-2025	959,354	0	0	959,354	0	959,354
Total	1,291,165	0	0	1,291,165	0	1,291,165

Vintage period	Ex-ante estimated reductions/removals	Achieved reductions/removals	Percent difference	Explanation for the difference
12-February-2025 - 31-October-2025	2,272,462	959,354	~57.8% lower	The primary reason for lower VCUs in the current monitoring period attributed to lower ICS distribution than envisaged ex-ante and distribution of ICS in phases during current monitoring period. Hence, average operational age of ICS is
Total	2,272,462	959,354	~57.8% lower	

				significantly lower than number of days in current monitoring period, which is appropriate.
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APPENDIX 1: COMMERCIALY SENSITIVE INFORMATION

No information presented in the monitoring report is deemed commercially sensitive.

APPENDIX 2: EVIDENCE OF PROJECT SD CONTRIBUTIONS

The SDG contributions for SDGs 3, 5, 7, 8 and 12 are calculated directly in the ER sheet based on survey data. Screenshot showing these calculations is attached here as evidence. For detailed information on how these contributions are calculated, please refer to the 'Ex-post Survey Results' tab in the ER sheet.

SDG Indicator	Monitoring Parameter		
3.9.1 Mortality rate attributed to household and ambient air pollution	The proportion of HHs confirming the reduction in smoke after using the project ICS (%)	97.71%	264,023
12.8 By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature	% of surveys households that can correctly identify correct usage of stove and its benefits	100.00%	270,211
5.4 Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age and location	The proportion of HHs confirming the reduction in amount of time spent on collection of firewood and cooking time (%)	90.08%	243,396
7.3.1 By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency	Number of distributed ICS operational?	270,211	
8.1 Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances and, in particular, at least 7 per cent gross domestic product growth per annum in the least developed countries.	The proportion of household expenditure on purchasing fuel is impacted by the use of a DA stove.	52.67%	142,325

Evidence for SDG 8.3 (employment list) is shared directly with the VVB, which involves numerous pages. Including them here would add more pages to the MR, so to keep the document manageable, this information is shared separately.