

# PROJECT REVIEW REPORT

This project review report includes findings raised during Verra’s review of the project specified below. The VVB must address the findings before the project request can be considered for approval by Verra. The project review report will be made publicly available on the Verra Registry. Confidential information may be provided in separate attachments.

<b>Project ID</b>	2616
<b>Project Name</b>	BQS improved cookstoves for Burundi’s schools
<b>Review Type</b>	Verification Approval
<b>Program(s)</b>	VCS Program
<b>Verification Period</b>	25 January 2016 to 31 December 2018
<b>Project Proponent</b>	Burundi Quality Stoves S.A.
<b>Methodology</b>	AMS I.E – “Switch from non-renewable biomass for thermal applications by the user” v5
<b>VVB</b>	<i>LGAI Technological Center S.A. (Applus+ Certification)</i>
<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	<i>VCS Standard, v4.4</i>
<b>Date of First Issue</b>	24 March 2023
<b>Review Conclusion</b>	Approved
<b>Date of Final Issue</b>	15 May 2023

## FINDINGS

#	Finding Description	VVB Response	Status
1	<p><u>Issue</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the summary and section 2.1 of the verification report, the VVB is requested to explain how it verified the 940 project installations. The VVB described a sampling approach, and the project proponent has not applied a sampling approach (section 4.3 of the project monitoring report).</li> <li>The VVB refers to household users whereas they are institutional cookstoves. In addition, in the same section the validation report states that it conducted a remote verification audit on 16 November 2021. However, the project was registered on 22 November 2022.</li> </ul> <p><u>Action Required</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The VVB is required to explain how it verified the 940 project installations remotely.</li> <li>The VVB is required to update, if necessary, the Summary Section and Section 2.1 of the verification report where the sampling approach is described.</li> <li>The VVB is required to ensure that it refers to the correct names as per the monitoring report. It is also required to explain why the verification took place before the project was registered.</li> </ul> <p><u>Program Rule(s)</u></p> <p><u>Background</u></p>	<p><u>Round 1</u></p> <p><u>VVB Response</u></p> <p>                     The reference to acceptance sampling (i.e. to Paras 28-33 of the “Standard: Sampling and surveys for CDM project activities and programme of activities, version 09.0”) was an error conveyed into this report from another. The VVB apologies for this inconsistency. The VVB has not verified the 940 project’s installations and the PP has not conducted sampling exercise. The VVB has instead applied sampling approach in line with the “Standard: Sampling and surveys for CDM project activities and programme of activities, version 09.0” Para 27. However, instead of selecting a flexible sample as accepted by the standard using free confidence/precision levels, the VVB used the table provided as a reference and guideline (considering the Standard’s Para 34 and adhering to an adequate and representative sample even if considering the Para 39 of the standard) in the standard for the sampling exercise. The Verification Report has been amended to better explain the sampling approach in Section 2.1. and summary. In any case, these interviews only reinforce those already done onsite by the same VVB as part of the Verification process in CDM. The reference to this has been added in the Verification Report, Sections 2.3. and 2.4. The level of assurance provided by the onsite verification (positive assessment of the PP’s records by onsite sampling) and by extending the cross-checks in this VCS Verification process by considering other users is found acceptable by the VVB in terms of assurance levels.                 </p> <p>The references to the households have been corrected.</p> <p>The issue with the date of registration and date of the inspection is explained below in the first information included as a response in the Finding no.2. The same has been also transparently</p>	Closed

		disclosed in the FVR, Section 2.3. in a footnote.	
		<u>Verra Response</u> The changes have been reviewed and accepted. The finding is closed.	

#	Finding Description	VVB Response	Status
2	<b>VVB's remote assessment that the project activity has completely switched from non-renewable woody biomass to renewable biomass</b>		
	<u>Issue</u> The monitoring report does not include related information, and the verification report does not explain how the VVB assessed remotely that the project activity has completely switched from using stoves with non-renewable woody biomass to renewable biomass in the project case, as described in the project description.	<b>Round 1</b> <u>VVB Response</u> The project has undergone gap validation and verification in parallel. However, due to the CDM rejection of the Verification and PRC, in order to avoid any confusion and given that there could be some questions raised in the sense of having the CDM Rejection, the VVB has provided at first instance the Gap Validation Report. Once all the aspects (regarding CDM Rejection of Verification and PRC) leading to VERRA's comments in PRR for the Gap Validation Report have been closed, then the Verification Report has been issued accordingly.	Closed
	<u>Action Required</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Using the values achieved during this monitoring period, the VVB is required to explain steps taken to remotely verify that that the project activity has completely switched from the use of non-renewable woody biomass to renewable biomass in line with the project's project description and how the same was monitored during the period under review.</li> <li>The VVB shall provide further clarification on how it deemed that the project is applicable to the applied methodology considering that the amount of non-renewable biomass is higher compared to the quantity of renewable biomass.</li> <li>The VVB is required to update the verification report</li> </ul>	Focusing into Gap Validation process, as part of it and as said before, PRR has been raised and this issue about the quantity of renewable and non-renewable biomass was raised by VERRA. VVB had answered the issue in detail in response to finding 1 of Gap Validation PRR, and same is reproduced and summarized here as a response to this finding for better clarity.	
		Moreover, VERRA reviewer can refer to the accepted and registered project's VCS Validation Report, Section 3.1. and its related PRR for more details.	
		PP had described the changes which led to higher emission reductions in the PDD submitted for Post Registration Changes to CDM which is available at <a href="#">CDM</a> . Same are referred in section 1.4 of revised VCS PD	

<p>providing sufficient assessments in response to this finding in sections 2.1 and 4.1 of the verification report.</p> <p><u>Program Rule(s)</u></p> <p><u>Background</u>          The monitoring period was rejected by <a href="#">CDM</a> with the following statement:  <i>The submitted emission reduction sheet indicates that the monitored quantity of renewable biomass consumed during the monitoring period is much lower than the total non-renewable biomass replaced for the claimed emission reductions; for example year 2015/2016, the monitored quantity of renewable biomass consumed is 3,401 tonnes (cell A0288), whereas the amount of non-renewable biomass replaced for the claimed emission reductions for year 2015/2016 is indicated as 56,217 tonnes (cell B1288). The DOE shall substantiate the factors responsible for this difference and how it has concluded that the project activity has completely switched the use of stove fuel from non-renewable woody biomass to renewable biomass as described in page 2 of the PDD. Please refer to paragraph 14 of AMS I.E version 5, paragraph 354 of VVS for PA version 2.</i></p>	<p>submitted to VERRA as a part of PRR.</p> <p>VVB has verified the details which were included in section 3.1 of revised validation report as part of the PRR corrective actions for Gap Validation. The higher emission reductions are primarily due to change in the number of schools and students per school and the quantitative and qualitative factors of the implementation of the project leading to an increase of the efficiency in comparison with the baseline stoves and cooking practices.</p> <p>Regarding the number of schools and students under the project, as initially envisaged in boarding schools only at project inception and initial registered version of the CDM PDD, the Government's schools canteen program has been extended to further schools including primary and secondary "non-boarding" schools (day schools), due to the lenders' growing interest in supporting food programmes for children and their families through the educative institutions and local agricultural production at the same time.</p> <p>In initial submission, number of schools were 99 (boarding schools only) which is now revised to 284 (both boarding and non-boarding schools) with average number of students per school is changed from 612 to 653. The value is based on the data monitored during the verification of CDM project for the school year 2016-2017, hence this is considered acceptable by the VVB.</p> <p>The VVB as a part of validation has cross-checked the Host Country Government's communication referred by the PP and found the same reflects the situation in which the PP is basing its decision of extending the PA to the non-boarding schools, hence the PRC regarding the extension of the PA to all type of schools along the host country instead of only adhering to the boarding schools was considered acceptable and well-founded by the VVB in its CDM's PRC assessment process, founding it also acceptable and well substantiated by institutional interest to extend the PA sustainable development contributions along other type of schools and areas of the host country.</p> <p>Same situation has been described in the VCS Validation Report and further substantiated during that phase PRR process.</p>	
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		<p>By the other hand, there were other factors affecting the efficiency of the use of biomass for cooking, consisting in both quantitative and qualitative factors.</p> <p>These factors have been extensively described and demonstrated in the VCS Validation Report. The qualitative factors, being of a non-measurable nature, have been addressed by the incorporation of a corrective and conservative factor by the PP for ER calculations, situation that has been described in the VCS Validation Report and accepted by VERRA during the Gap Validation review process, thus leading to the registration of the project and thus substantiating its eligibility.</p> <p>These are the main reasons behind significant rise in the emissions reductions against the initially considered by the CDM PDD.</p> <p>A call with VERRA team was arranged during the PRR actions at Gap Validation stage and the response was accepted by the team, leading to confirm project's eligibility and registration. Detailed explanation has been given of all these circumstances in the revised VCS PD and the VCS Validation Report.</p> <p>Regarding the issue that the project activity has completely switched from the use of non-renewable woody biomass to renewable biomass in line with the original CDM PDD, Section A.1. phrase: <i>“Along with the diffusion of such a stove to replace currently inefficient cooking systems [...] participating schools in replacement of their non-renewable woodfuel. <b>100% of fuel consumed in boarding schools will be switched</b> to briquettes made of renewable biomass waste [...]”</i>, this was proposed as a change in the CDM PRC Process. However, due to the rejection of the PRC process (because it was in Issuance Track), the same has not been published as the change of that particular statement was done during the rounds of review in CDM process, that finally led to rejection of the issuance (along with its Issuance track</p>	
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	<p>PRC).</p> <p>The proposed track changes PDD submitted as part of the Request for Review responses to CDM is enclosed along with this answered PRR.</p> <p>The statement has been changed to:</p> <p><u>Along with the diffusion of such a stove to replace currently inefficient cooking systems, a renewable biomass supply-chain will be set up, by sourcing unutilized biomass residues to produce renewable biomass briquettes and market it to the participating schools in replacement of their non-renewable woodfuel. <del>100% of Non renewable biomass</del> fuel consumed in <del>boarding</del>-schools will be switched to briquettes made of renewable biomass waste. BQS will ensure a competitive and attractive price for using briquettes together with improved cook stoves in order to give incentives to the state's communities to switch <del>100%</del> from the previous costly non-renewable woodfuel to the innovative briquettes made of renewable biomass wastes.<sup>1</sup> BQS will ensure through a sale agreement and robust supply strategy that no shortage of briquettes will appear, <u>while unlikely/exceptional shortages imply residual baseline woodfuel supply by the families.</u></u></p> <p>Thus, the project is not substituting the 100% of the non-renewable biomass, but aiming it, by providing incentives with the purpose of this substitution.</p> <p>The VCS PD, Section 1.1. reflects this same phrase that was intended to be changed in CDM during the PRC process for a similar comment.</p> <p>The Final Verification Report in its summary section has been corrected to clarify this circumstance.</p> <p>The PP also includes as part of the calculations, the consideration of non-operative kitchens when the shortage of briquettes lead to the use of non-renewable biomass to continue cooking. The calculations and the consideration of this parameter have been found acceptable and conservative, and the same is also described in the VCS Validation Report Section 3.1.</p> <p>All these explained above is well documented in the validation report and its PRR and thoroughly discussed and accepted by VERRA. Same was only summarized in Sections 3.2 and 3.3. of the verification report as these circumstances affected to Validation process. The verification</p>	
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		<p>is based on what is accepted as project’s conditions and design in its VCS PD.</p> <p>However, for a better clarity and transparency, references to the Validation Report and the VCS PD have been added along the Verification Report in Sections 2.1 and 4.1.</p>	
		<p><u>Verra Response</u> The changes have been reviewed and accepted. The finding is closed.</p>	