

Trash2cook Initiative via COOKBLU

Name: Community Excellence and Development Initiative

Affiliation: Trifinity Intelligence Consult Ltd and Eco-Impact and Development Initiative

Introduction

Nigeria's cooking energy crisis is severe. The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) reports that about 67.8% of households depend on firewood — fuelling an estimated 95,000 annual deaths from indoor air pollution, women spend 4–10 hours daily collecting firewood and 2.38% annual forest loss in Nigeria. LPG awareness is growing, but high upfront costs, limited access, and explosion-prone steel cylinders keep adoption stubbornly low. COOKBLU, a community-driven initiative is addressing this through LPG-as-a-service with the Trash2Cook model — allowing households exchange recyclables for cooking energy credits. With local partners and digital infrastructure, COOKBLU targets 22,500 households transitioned to clean cooking, 7.5 million tCO₂e reduced, 5,000+ jobs, and 700,000 kg waste diverted by 2029.

Objectives

To promote clean cooking adoption, sustainable waste management, and women-led green livelihoods while reducing dependence on polluting fuels and strengthening community climate resilience.



Fig 1: The National Coordinator GEF-SGP UNDP, Dr Ibironke Olubamise delivering a keynote address at the Trash2Cook inception workshop in Chika Community, Abuja.

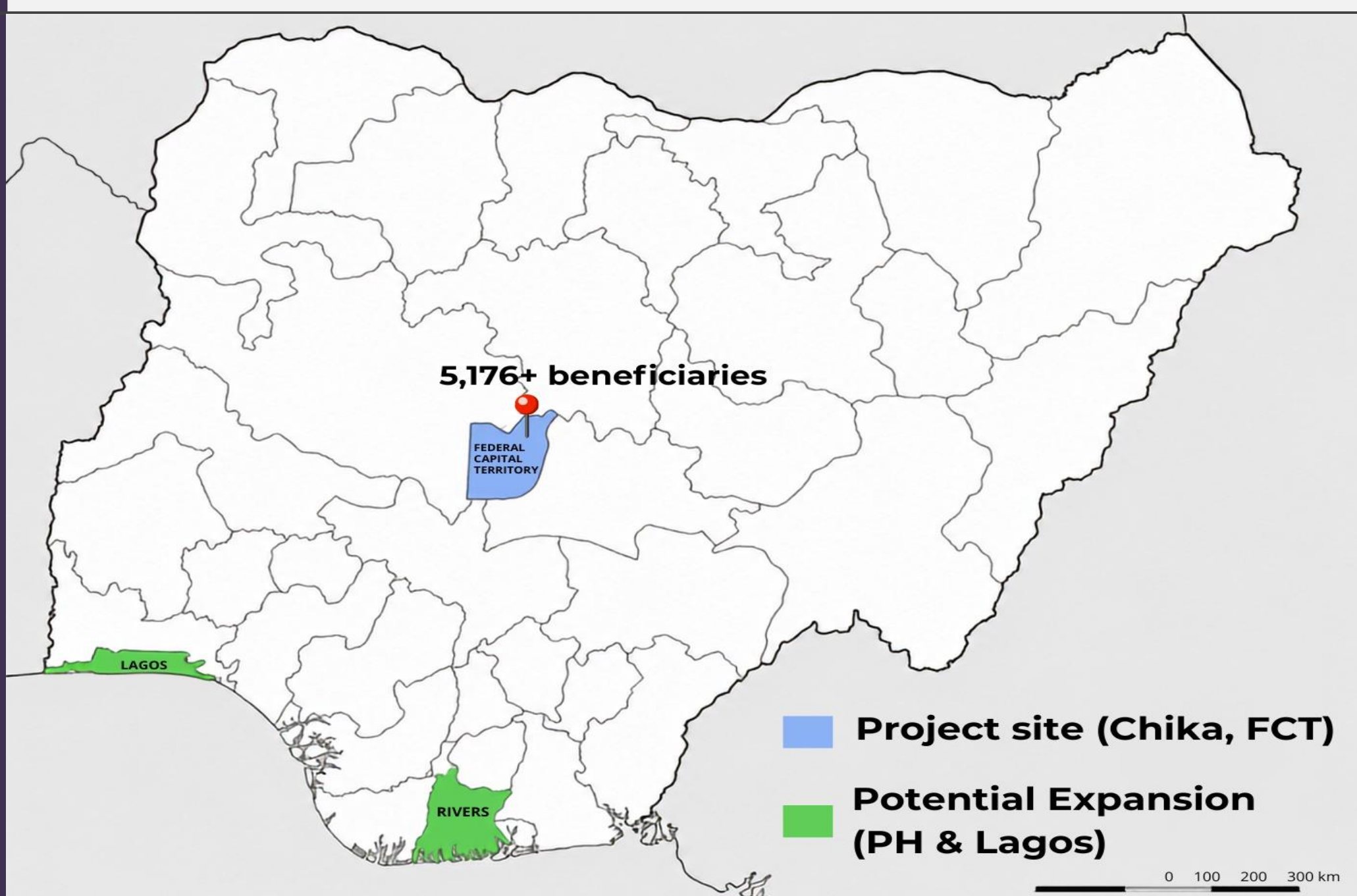


Fig. 2: Regional distribution of COOKBLU project site, with potential scale

Methodology

The project adopts a User-Centered Design (UCD) approach, engaging communities to understand fuel-use behaviours, and barriers to clean cooking adoption. Findings from baseline assessments informed tailored interventions, while behavioural incentives, community engagement, and continuous user feedback guides implementation. Regular monitoring and adaptive learning will ensure the project remains responsive, driving sustained adoption and long-term impact.

Results and Discussions

The intervention integrated clean cooking and circular model by reaching 3000+ households and SMEs, empowering over 440 women, creating 40 green jobs, diverting 14.2 tonnes of waste from landfills and open burning, reducing open burning by 41%, improving waste management in over 800 households, and establishing 2 LPG Distribution Outlets in Abuja.



Fig 3: Princess Odiaka, Founder, COOKBLU along side community residents sensitizing women during the community roadshow in Dec, 2025.

Conclusion and Future Work

COOKBLU validated a scalable model that integrates circular economy and clean cooking solutions, delivering measurable gains in clean energy adoption and environmental sustainability. With strategic investment, the next phase aims to reach 50,000+ households, establish 50+ MDOs, create 200+ green jobs, divert 1,000+ tonnes of waste, and avoid 10,000+ tonnes of CO₂ emissions annually. This expansion will accelerate equitable access to clean cooking while strengthening climate resilience and inclusive green growth across Nigeria.

Reference

[1] NBS (2026). <https://gazettengr.com/67-8-of-nigerian-households-use-firewood-nbs/>

Acknowledgements

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