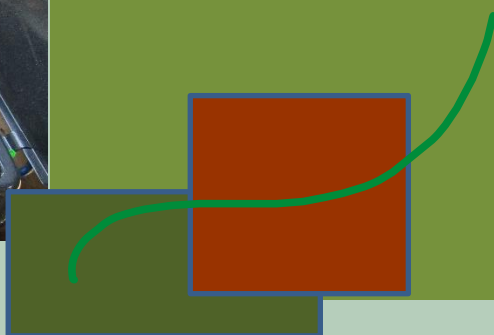




MICROSFERE

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



No one expected that a tiny organism would impact everyone and everyone's activities so much.... Despite the COVID situation, we managed to continue with our very successful cookstove project, which has been at the heart of Microsfere's activities in the last few years. The three children's libraries also continued their operation and were much in demand when the schools were closed. We also continued to monitor the previously established microenterprises, and to work in close collaboration with our beneficiaries and our main partner, the Kakum National Park Management Unit.

MICROENTERPRISES

No new microenterprises were created this year, but we continued the monitoring and support of previously established microenterprises, such as grasscutter rearing units, soap making and beekeeping.



Mr Isaac, one of the beekeepers in the village of Kenkuase proudly showing his product.

The technical support that we provide, in collaboration with our partner, the Kakum National Park management body, is of crucial importance, as beneficiaries often face technical problems that need to be dealt with. For example, grasscutters were affected by a disease and we had to explain to our beneficiaries the importance of managing their stock of animals.



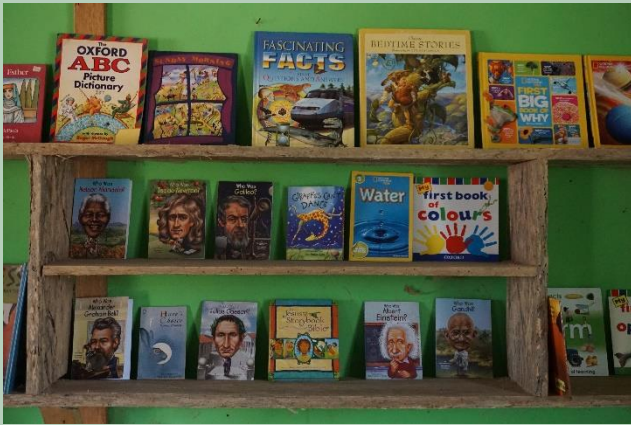
Two of the ladies producing white soap in the community of Abeka Nkwantaa

Some beekeepers had invested in the construction of beehives, but some of the hives were not colonised by bees. We thus worked closely with the beneficiaries to find alternative solutions and to understand the factors that did not favour colonisation. One of the factors identified was the use of chemical products in their farms, which has a clear negative impact on bees. The promotion of beehives was thus also a good opportunity to increase awareness about use of chemical inputs.

EDUCATION AND AWARENESS RAISING

Children's libraries: The operation of the three existing libraries in the Kakum communities (Brahabeome, Abeka Nkwantaa, Kenkuase) continued throughout the year. With the school closure due to the pandemic, demand for the library

services was even higher. We recorded a very encouraging number of participants in all three libraries ; bot their children and their parents are telling us how much they enjoy the books and spending time in the library. Most of our books are



related to environmental issues, but other issues are also covered: geography, tales, history...

A fourth library is expected to start operating in the near future; as soon as the sanitary situation allows it, we will provide books and other material for a library in the community of Afiaso, which is about to have a brand new community center financed by the regional government.

PROMOTION OF COOKSTOVES

The cookstove project has been particularly successful since 2015, when the first batch of cookstoves was provided to the beneficiaries.

Since then, we have conducted three more cookstove distribution rounds, bringing the total number of beneficiaries to about 420. The last distribution was done in July 2020, and reached 101 beneficiaries.

This means that a total of 420 families now enjoy hassle-free cooking which does not involve hours of wood collection, or money spent on fuelwood purchase. The families (mainly the women) do not have to spend hours ensuring that the fire is lit and remains lit, and do not have to inhale all the smoke that was being produced by burning wood and that was significantly affecting their lungs, throat and eyes.

The cookstoves are fuelled with gas; the beneficiaries receive one cookstove and one gas cylinder, which can be relatively easily filled every

three months or so in one of the small rural towns nearby.



A happy cookstove user !

The beneficiaries receive a training on how to safely use their cookstoves, and then Microsfere monitoring their appropriate use in the long-run.

We are getting ready for a fifth round of cookstove distribution... hopefully within 2021.

COMMUNICATION

Facebook: Our Facebook page is the main communication channel for updates concerning our activities. It also allows us to promote information about campaigns that are of interest to us, mainly related to deforestation and environmental protection.

Site Web: Our website remains operational and is updated from time to time. It is our aim to refresh its looks within 2021.



**For more information:
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