

GREEN ACTION FUND 2018 – GRANT RECIPIENTS

AFRICA

Burundi: Association Burundaise des Consommateurs (ABUCO-TI)

In Burundi, leftover medicines pose a risk to human health and the environment, as some households continue to use medicines after expiry. ABUCO-TI will strive to educate households about the need to dispose of leftover medicines safely. To accomplish this, they will organise a workshop to raise awareness of the dangers posed by leftover medicines and implement measures to ensure that leftover drugs are collected and disposed of safely. By working with public institutions, ABUCO-TI will organise a community collection campaign lasting five days.

Senegal: Association pour la Défense de l'Environnement et des Consommateurs (ADEC)

ADEC's project will focus on communities in Rufisque, 28km from the capital city Dakar. Their aim will be to strengthen these communities by encouraging them to adopt practices of sustainable consumption. ADEC will be organising discussion groups, focus groups and forums to promote awareness of the benefits of sustainable consumption, as well as organising meetings between consumer groups in order to strengthen their partnerships.

Rwanda: The Rwanda Consumer's Rights Protection Organization (ADECOR)

ADECOR's project will focus on two problems facing communities in Rwanda: poor sanitation and an overreliance on firewood for cooking fuel. Their aim is to combat both issues by encouraging a shift away from a culture of individual ownership to one of common ownership.

To fight poor sanitation, ADECOR will help communities to set up and maintain their own ecosan toilets, which will act as a hygienic alternative to open defecation. To overcome the overreliance on firewood, they will work with communities to establish a common source of biogas, which will act as an affordable energy source while helping to combat deforestation. Workshops will be organised to share knowledge with the community, and training sessions will give community facilitators the skills necessary to set up and maintain their own ecosan toilets and biogas facilities.

Mali: Association des Consommateurs du Mali (ASCOMA)

ASCOMA will be aiming to overcome serious sanitation problems in Commune IV of Bamako, where a lack of sewers is having a harmful impact upon health and the local environment. Working in collaboration with the women's NGO 'Musso Jigi', they will organise

workshops and training sessions to share information on sorting and processing waste with the inhabitants of Commune IV. A range of stakeholders will be involved in this project, including community and traditional leaders, representatives from civil society and sanitation experts.

Togo: Association Togolaise des Consommateurs (ATC)

In Togo, firewood, charcoal and plant waste constitute 90% of household energy consumption, harming the environment and resulting in increased deforestation. To overcome this, ATC will be encouraging communities to share and use energy in a sustainable manner. As some communities are already practicing techniques for sustainable energy consumption, they will be organising workshops at which these communities will be able to share their knowledge and skills with others. In this way, sharing and collaboration between communities is at the heart of ATC's project.

Benin: Benin Sante et Survie du Consommateur (BSSC)

A lack of access of to safe drinking water remains a major problem for many people in Benin. While the government has tried to rectify this by building water pumps for some villages, other communities still lack access to safe drinking water. BSSC's project aims to alleviate this problem by identifying villages that could share water pumps, and by sensitizing communities as to the importance of safe drinking water and the need to repair non-functioning pumps and water supply systems. They will also be aiming to conduct consumer awareness training for 100 community leaders and establish consumer associations in rural areas to campaign for improved access to safe drinking water.

Zimbabwe: Consumer Council of Zimbabwe (CCZ)

CCZ's project revolves around the principle of 'each one, teach one'. Participants from Manicaland Province will be trained in sustainable crop farming that avoids the use of hazardous pesticides. CCZ will also be creating a resource sharing platform in the community, which will enable people to exchange knowledge and share farming facilities. They aim to train 150 people initially but are expecting these participants to go on to share their training with others in the local community. Ultimately, they hope to spread sustainable farming practices throughout the community.

Côte D'Ivoire: Fédération des Associations de Consommateurs de Côte d'Ivoire (FAC-CI)

Unhealthy foods and snacks are prevalent in schools in Cote D'Ivoire, with the resulting waste from plastic bags and disposable containers causing harm to the environment. FAC-CI's objective will be to make young people, students, farmers and members of women's

associations aware of their rights and duties towards the environment as consumers, and to educate consumers on good practices in waste collection and recycling.

Kenya: Kenya Consumers Organisation (KCO)

KCO's project will be focused on challenging companies that disregard rules and regulations by producing food and goods that are not fit for human use or consumption. Many consumers in Kenya are not aware of their rights, and do not complain when they purchase items that are found to be unfit for use or consumption. KCO will be working to create awareness of cultures of sharing and collaboration and showing how these can help to create access to sustainable and high-quality goods for consumers. This will be achieved by organizing community advocacy groups.

Mali: Regroupement pour la Défense de Consommateurs du Mali (REDECOMA)

Dyeing outlets provide many jobs for Malians, however the traditional dyeing process can also have a harmful impact on the environment and human health. Waste water from the dyeing process is often washed directly into open gutters and streams without being treated beforehand. These become polluted with chemicals used in the dyeing process, along with solvents, exposing the population to diseases such as skin cancer and onchocerciasis. The population is largely unaware of the harm caused by this waste water, both to their own health and to the local environment.

REDECOMA's project aims to rectify this, by bringing together stakeholders from across the local community in Bamako, including dyers, women's associations and the local authorities. A debate between these stakeholders will be held to highlight the risks and to propose solutions. REDECOMA will also set up groups in each neighbourhood and community to share information about the risks associated with the traditional dyeing process, and to facilitate awareness-raising activities. These groups will then engage in advocacy activities, campaigning for the creation of water treatment plants that can protect the population.

ASIA PACIFIC

India: Citizen Consumer and Civic Action Group (CAG)

CAG's objective is to revive the culture of sharing that previously existed in Chennai, while educating consumers about the importance of sustainable consumption. Street plays will be held to increase awareness of the need for effective waste management, and information leaflets will be distributed to advise consumers on day-to-day waste management in the home. CAG will also be training consumers on how to turn household waste into compost and will be encouraging consumers to set up their own kitchen gardens and share the compost they produce.

Malaysia: Consumers Association of Penang (CAP)

CAP will be tackling the decrease of biodiversity in Malaysia by promoting seed saving and sharing among farmers, gardeners and the public generally. They aim to reintroduce traditional hardy varieties of seeds, minor crops, local species of vegetables and rare herbs. CAP will also be hosting a fair for seed sharing between gardeners and farmers. An online seed sharing network will be established for the fair participants, to ensure that the culture of sharing continues after the end of the project.

India: Consumer Education and Research Centre (CERC)

Too often in India products are discarded despite being perfectly useable. CERC's project seeks to change this by encouraging consumers to pass on their unwanted items to others who need them more. This will be achieved by establishing 'Aap-le no Otlo' in Ahmedabad, a physical space where people can deposit their unwanted items for others in need to collect. In addition, they aim to overcome food wastage by installing a community refrigerator, where local people and business owners can leave their unwanted food for the poor to collect. CERC hope to push the project beyond the initial target communities by establishing an online version of 'Aap-le no Otlo', allowing people to carry out exchanges online.

India: Consumer Federation Tamil Nadu (CONFET)

Unequal access to goods and services is a significant problem for farming and fishing communities in Cuddalore district. CONFET will be encouraging these communities to adopt a culture of sharing, by pooling resources such as water, fuel, agricultural produce, farming and fishing equipment. They will provide training for farmers, fishermen, women's organisations, school and college students on how best to implement measures for sharing in the community. In addition, CONFET will be submitting suggestions to government for the implementation of measures to share resources within communities.

Nepal: Socio Economic Welfare Action for Women and Children (SEWA)

As the population of Kathmandu continues to grow, so does the amount of waste produced by the city's inhabitants. This has also resulted in reduced space for farming and gardening. SEWA will be encouraging neighbours to make the most of their common space, by providing local women with training in vermicomposting and garden management. This will decrease their kitchen expenses, while increasing their purchasing power. SEWA will be providing participants with earthworms for vermicomposting and materials for kitchen gardening, and will be assisting them with installing their own vermicomposting beds.

India: Voluntary Organization in Interest of Consumer Education (VOICE)

VOICE's project centres around combatting pollution in Delhi. Students from a local school will be taught about the importance of environmental conservation, and tree planting activities will be held at the school. VOICE will be training groups of students to take care of these saplings, so that the entire community can benefit from cleaner air. They plan to invite officials from environmental groups and the government in Delhi to attend the workshop, so that the students can benefit from their expertise as well.

Indonesia: Yogyakarta Consumers Institute (YCI)

For many consumers in Yogyakarta, rice is their only source of carbohydrates. Over-reliance on rice can result in a range of disease that primarily affect women, including myomas, cysts, cervical cancer and breast cancer. YCI's project aims to share knowledge of organic, local foods that could be used as a healthy alternative to rice. By providing awareness training, and by teaching consumers to make effective use of alternative foodstuffs, YCI hopes to get local people eating healthier diets that are also more diverse. To ensure their success, they will be organising markets for healthy foods and displaying healthy alternatives to rice in shop storefronts.

EUROPE

Armenia: National Association of Consumers (ANNA)

Agriculture plays a major role in the Armenian economy but is vulnerable to environmental issues such as land degradation. In addition, the tracks used by cattle farmers are often damaged from overuse, meaning that many farmers have only limited access to pasture land. ANNA's project will seek to overcome this by raising awareness among farmers of bioengineering methods that can prevent land degradation. They will encourage farmers to collaborate to implement such methods, to ensure that all have equal access to pasture land, and to share agricultural equipment with each other. ANNA will also be organising a roundtable discussion on the prevention of land degradation, and the protection of consumer rights.

LATIN AMERICA

Peru: Asociación Peruana de Consumidores y Usuarios (ASPEC)

In Peruvian society, there is a taboo around the idea of sharing personal items; ASPEC's project aims to overcome this taboo and restore a culture of sharing to Peruvian society. They will organise a comic book making contest for school pupils in Lima, centred around the theme of sharing, with the best entries being published on ASPEC's blog. In addition to

this, ASPEC will be organising an awareness raising campaign, and will be encouraging participants to think of ways of applying sharing in everyday life.

Ecuador: Tribuna Ecuatoriana de Consumidores y Usuarios (Tribuna)

Tribuna will be aiming to overcome unhealthy eating habits among school students by promoting traditional recipes and ways of preparing food. Their project will bring together stakeholders from across the educational community including students, parents, teachers and representatives from education authorities. Tribuna will be organising a practical workshop at which participants will share their knowledge of traditional recipes and food preparation – these recipes will then be compiled and published to be shared with others. They will also be organising a fair at which organic products grown in family gardens will be on show.

Nicaragua: Liga por la Defensa del Consumidor de Nicaragua (LIDECONIC)

LIDECONIC's project tackles the high levels of consumption of industrially produced items, focusing on the harmful effects that waste from such items can have on the environment. They will be encouraging families in four neighbourhoods in Managua to adopt practices of collaborative consumption, while also promoting sustainable access to goods and services. LIDECONIC will organise community fairs in each of the four neighbourhoods to promote the exchange and sharing of products and personal goods, while demonstrating the negative environmental effects of waste from industrially produced goods. They will also hold awareness-raising talks to encourage local families to establish their own networks for collaborative consumption.

Mexico: Colectivo Ecologista Jalisco (CEJ)

CEJ will be aiming to empower young people to challenge the polluting of the Santiago River. They will be holding educational activities that will encourage students to reflect on their consumption habits, while identifying habits and practices that encourage sharing and the exchange of consumer goods. This will help the participants to consider ways of tackling the pollution by exercising their consumer rights. In addition to organising workshops for young people, CEJ will be meeting with community leaders who promote responsible local consumption to discuss ways of incorporating collaborative consumption into their work spaces.

MIDDLE EAST

Lebanon: Consumers Lebanon (CL)

Consumers Lebanon will be tackling the country's problem with waste. Not only are current waste management measures ineffective, but there is also a need to tackle the impulsive spending habits of consumers, who all too frequently purchase items for which they have no need.

CL will be working in partnership with other NGOs to collect items from across the different regions of Lebanon, so that these can then be shared within the communities that need them. Working with other NGOs will enable CL to raise awareness of the circular economy at an institutional level, as well as at the level of the individual. Collection boxes will be distributed in public places across the country, and CL will clean, sort and distribute the items to their partners. CL are hoping to organise media coverage for their project, so that their message reaches every corner of Lebanon.

Yemen: Yemen Association for Consumer Protection (YACP)

Young people in Yemen live in an increasingly hostile environment, due to the ongoing conflict and the resultant weakening of public services. Regulations and guidelines on food safety are not enforced in school canteens, and a lack of understanding of health issues means that infectious diseases spread easily. In addition, school yards lack green spaces for students, and are often polluted with waste and plastic bags. YACP's project aims to mitigate these issues by educating students and school staff members about the importance of hygiene and a clean environment. They will be holding a training course for school employees in Sana'a on food safety and will also be visiting school canteens to make sure that food safety guidelines are being followed. In addition to this, YACP will be organising an exhibition that will teach students to look after their health, and to protect the environment.