

Savings Groups Enable Women to Afford an Efficient Cook Stove in Kenya



The "Nyipinje CSL group", found in Kodweso Village, is one out of many Community Savings and Loaning (CSL) Groups located in Siaya County, Kenya. The CSL group is a mechanism to make the efficient cook stove affordable to every household. Photographer: Robert Hörnig

Traditionally the rural communities of the Siaya region of western Kenya have cooked on open fires, which require huge amounts of firewood. Thanks to community savings and loaning (CSL) groups, however, women can now afford more efficient stoves. This reduces the demand for firewood and thus protects the local forests, which leads to reduced CO₂ emissions. Furthermore the CSL groups lead to a financial and social empowerment of women.

The stoves use 40-50 per cent less firewood and are made by local stove artisans using locally available materials. They save households money and the time required for collecting firewood. In addition, the superior, more efficient combustion process significantly improves the air quality within the home, thus helping to reduce respiratory disorders specially of women and children.

In Siaya County 97.5 per cent of households use wood fuels and only 0.1 per cent use electricity for cooking.

myclimate works closely with the local Kenyan Tembea Youth Center for Sustainable Development, which sets up and manages the CSL groups. Over time, CSL groups mature and are graduated to semi-autonomous operating entities across the project region. They conglomerate into women-led "financial institutions" with power to influence decision-making, shape leadership and inform policy at project level and beyond. The methodology of community savings and loaning has leadership components especially for women, as there is always a chair person, a secretary and a treasurer, which are mostly female.

Project type:

Efficient cook stoves

Project location:

Siaya, Kenya

Project status:

In operation, credits available

Annual CO₂ reduction:

144,910 t

Situation without project

Use of non-renewable biomass fuels for cooking

Project standard

Gold Standard[®]

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Impressions



Pamela Omondi from Ng'ura village. She loves to Tembea Cookstove because of its safety. She has a mentally and physically disabled son who used to get burnt from the open fire. Photographer: Robert Hörnig



"Tembea has changed my life." Genevive Akoth, farmer and project employee as a community mobiliser, 33 years old, mother of 3 children. Photographer: Robert Hörnig

Thanks to the project, I am able to send my children to school and to the doctor and I was able to buy 6 sheep and poultry.

Genevive Akoth, project employee, Siaya, Kenya

Thanks to this secure method of financing, women can afford a stove, and often have money to spare for such things as healthcare, insurance, school fees or high-quality seeds. On average, fifteen women meet between two and four times a month. The myclimate project partner Tembea subsidises half of the stove price, whilst an interest-free loan is granted for the remaining 1,000 shillings. The women must pay back this loan within two years at the latest.

The myclimate climate protection financing also flows through Tembea into educating local stove artisans in the production and installation of the efficient stoves, training households to use and maintain them correctly, and into campaigns to raise awareness among the population regarding the subjects of renewable energies and energy-efficiency.

Have a look at more pictures on myclimate-Facebook!

This project contributes to 9 SDGs (as of end 2021):

Find out how myclimate reports these SDGs in our FAQ.

The following SDGs are verified by the Gold Standard:



A household saves 72 euros and 262 hours due to reduced fuel consumption.



Women and children from 79,296 households benefit from better air quality.



70,000 people have been reached with awareness creation on climate change, clean cooking and community saving & loaning.



30% of the jobs created by the project are held by women and the project reduces time spent by women and girls collecting firewood.



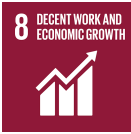
Linda Atieno, field officer of the project, 29 years old is giving a training for a Community Saving and Loaning Group. Photographer: Robert Hörnig



"I can save money by spending less on firewood. This money pays the school fees for my two youngest children." Francisca Adhiambo, Nyangera Village, Ugunja, mother of 7 children. Photographer: Robert Hörnig



428,198 persons benefit from efficient and cleaner cooking with 79,296 efficient stoves constructed.



224 people benefit from permanent employment.



The clean and energy efficient cookstoves are produced locally with local material.



Each stoves saves around 2.0 t CO₂ per year.

These SDGs have been approved by myclimate:



393'802 tons of wood have been saved since project start.