Savings Groups Enable Women to Afford an Efficient Cook Stove

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.

300,000 people benefit from better air
89% is the proportion of female members
59,000 efficient cook stoves installed

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.

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

Contribution to the SDGs

Gold Standard
VER

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
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.

**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 offsetting payments also flow 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.

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**Impacts and benefits achieved:**

- 300,000 people benefit from better air and from having to spend less time for collecting firewood.
- 166 permanent jobs have been created for the local community (60% women).
- 205 artisans have been trained over the years (52% women).
- 59,000 cook stoves have been installed so far.
- Over 1,600 community savings and loaning groups (CSL) have been created with 59,000 members (89% women).
- 100% of stoves were purchased through CSL mechanism.
- 70 EUR and 260 hours time (5 hours per week) have been saved in average per household per year.
- 299,000 t of wood saved and therefore 6,230 ha of forest saved.
- Each stove avoids about 2.4 t CO₂ and 1.6 tonnes wood per year.
- Air quality improvement in the kitchen: 100% of beneficiaries report less smoke, 98% report less eye irritation, 95% report easier breathing, 90% report less coughing, 78% report less headache.