



CASE STUDIES:

KENYAN IMPROVED COOKSTOVES



Lillian Akoth Opiyo:

“I’m a mother of five school-going children of which four are day scholars in nearby primary schools. One is in a boarding secondary school.

I stay with two other female relatives and everyone in this household has learned to operate and cook on the good stove because it is effortless to light, smoke free and saves fuel.”

“Before the project began in this area, I had sleepless nights particularly during rainy seasons thinking hard on where to get good cooking wood fuel for in this community it is highly priced and hard to come by. There are no free or communal fuel collection points and this means that collecting even a dry twig along the neighbours’ fence can create a serious conflict.”



Alice Awino Otieno:

“There isn’t just enough fuel out there. I have to say that the stove has helped us to utilise every little available fuel. I value it so much because it meets my cooking needs and is suitable for use even

with fuel from the shamba (farm). We were trained on the cooking process which enabled us to use sources of fuel such as dry maize stalks and maize cobs from our farms.”

“Nowadays, whenever we harvest, we dry and keep them back. The stove works well with them. I am happy to say that never before had I seen a project done in a free and fair manner like this, we accept it and are proud to have been selected as beneficiaries. We wish that everyone benefits.”



Kasighau Basket Weavers:

Mainly found in Rukanga sub location in Voi Sub County the Kasighau basket weavers have been benefitting from the energy efficient stove project for over 5 years. The members are a registered womens group whose ages range from 16 – 64 years. Initially before benefitting from Carbon Zero energy efficient cook stoves the group had seven active members. Over the last five years that the stoves have been in existence, the group membership has steadily risen to 53 members. Members are involved in weaving, mainly basketry. The group has grown from a local home based cottage industry to an export industry.

Since the donation of the stoves 5 years ago the women from the local community have found that the much needed time and resources required to engage in the weaving of baskets on a commercial scale has been derived from the time saved on:

- > Collecting cooking wood, with the stove utilising less wood as compared to traditional 3 stone jikos (stove).
- > Reduced time spent cooking with the stoves providing a more efficient burning method.

“As members of the Kasighau basket weavers, we have enjoyed real benefit from our new stoves. Before, the group members did not have enough time to practice basketry. Often, more than half of the group members were absent during the weaving sessions; with nearly all their time taken from them due to daily household cooking responsibilities.”

“Thanks to the energy efficient stove, the group members now have more time to weave baskets. This has seen a tremendous increase in the group members.”



Lucy Muthoni:

Lucy Muthoni is a tea picking casual labourer in her neighborhood. Having dropped out of school for lack of school fees Lucy is not able to secure formal employment and has for long struggled to pay her children’s school fees.

Afraid that her children will follow the same path, Lucy works extra hours to ensure she has overtime pay so that she can afford her childrens schooling fees. Several years ago she was provided with a CO2balance improved cook stove, free of charge; she explains to us the impact that it has had on her family

“The benefit of having a stove that does not use much fuel is, I have extra time to work and earn extra revenue. This helps me make small savings aiding me to obtain credit against my savings to pay school fees.”

Lucy further explained that other benefits that the stove has made, such as having more time to attend to her children, less time spent gathering fuel, better health and a reduced workload by carrying lesser firewood on her back as compared to the firewood required by her old 3 stone jiko.

Now, Lucy is also able to report at work early and earn more as she is able to exceed the target kilograms of tea picked per day.