



Final Project Report - Malawi

Volunteer Name: EMAS POTOLANI

Project Title: *Integrated Women Empowerment Through Improved-Stove Production*

Project Location: CHITETE/PATERSON VILLAGE

Date Implemented: *June 2016*

Date Completed: *September 2016*

Brief Description/Executive Summary:

The Women Empowerment through Improved Stove Production is a project that aimed at imparting Stove Production skills in Women to enable them to make some money after selling the stoves. The stove sells would end up empowering women socioeconomically and make them change agents.

The project involved providing resources and teaching women in the production of improved stoves as an income-generating activity, with the aim of contributing towards the social and economic empowerment of women and other disadvantaged groups in my community. Compared to conventional cooking methods, the improved Stoves locally called Mbaula cut indoor air pollution significantly and help protect against burns.

These stoves also require less wood fuel, a critical step in protecting the country's forests. The improved Stoves unlike the traditional 3 stones cooking method use less wood, produce very less smoke, cook food quickly, and most importantly saves money which is spent on buying fire wood. The improved stoves thus indeed complement our efforts in saving trees and improve or achieve a better health for households in our community and those near us.

The women learnt how to make two kinds of Improved Stoves; the Movable and the Stationed Stoves. And are now replicating the knowledge in making the Stationed/Immovable Stove type among fellow women in the community.

Problems or Needs addressed:

The project intended to impact the women in Chitete with skills in Improved Stove Production and aimed at making it as an income generating activity for the women.

The problem was the heavy reliance and dependence on firewood which meant that there was a continuous cutting down of trees to satisfy the need for more firewood for cooking using the conventional/traditional three stone cooking place. This means deforestation was on the rise due to this heavy dependency on trees for firewood. The Stove Production was aimed at reducing this dependency on trees by reducing drastically the amount of firewood need for cooking in homes.

Target Population/Beneficiaries/Stakeholders:

Target population: women, beneficiaries 10 women

The women learnt and accumulated knowledge in Improved Stove Production which helped them to start earning some money after sells. The women also replicated the Stove production to fellow women in the community. A good number of women in the community know how to make stoves for their kitchen.

The replication of the project model enabled the women to widen the impact in the community in preserving the environment and fighting climate change as well as improving livelihoods for households.

Partners:

The partners for this project were the Friends of Malawi Association (FOMA), the Women's group itself, Chitete Primary School administration who allowed us to use the school premises for the initial training and the local leadership in the community who continuously gave me and the women a platform to speak about Improved Stoves during community meetings.

10 Women worked with me directly to conduct this project and 15 people were involved in the ideation, planning and prototyping of the project.

Community Contribution:

Apart from their time and constructive input and feedback the Women contributed bricks, cooking oil, and saw dust. There were utensils like buckets that were used to implement this project they provided these resources. The women offered kitchens where we made demonstrations (prototypes) of how to create these improved stoves.

As these contributions were sourced, the most important lesson learnt was that, it was quite easy and convenient for the women to gather and contribute non-monetary stuff and materials for the project and it was hard and inconvenient for them bring cash contributions for the same. Cash contributions required more time for the women to contribute.

Action Plan Accomplishment:

List the major milestones accomplished and by whom.

PLANNED (as stated in your proposal)	ACTUAL
<u>ACTIVITIES</u>	
<i>What activities must be implemented to reach each outcome?</i>	<i>Which activities were completed and which were not?</i>
Form a women's group	Done, a 10-member group of women created
Training for women	Done, 10 women trained in Stove production
Making of two types of Prototypes	2 different types of prototypes made as part of the training for the women
Formal training by a profession	Not completed

Goals: Planned and Actual Achievements:

PLANNED (as stated in your proposal)	ACTUAL
<u>OUTCOMES</u>	
<i>What immediate outcomes of the project would you like to achieve?</i>	<i>What outcomes of the project did you achieve?</i>
Each member of the Women’s group to know the technical know-how in producing Improved Stoves	Each member learnt and produced their own prototype after doing it as a group
Other women in the community to acquire skills in making Stationed Stoves in their Kitchens through knowledge sharing by the women’s group	Stove production knowledge replicated among the women in the community
Finding a sustainable market for Stoves	A sustainable Market was already found
Joining Mbaula network of producers and buyers	Joined “MBAULA” a platform for Stove producers and buyers and knowledge sharing in Malawi
Opening a bank account for storage of Stove sells proceeds	Account was not opened because the sells hasn’t yet started formally as a group
Having a professional training for the women Group and accrediting them as certified producers	Was not done

Obstacles Encountered and Solutions – Lessons Learned:

The women were supposed to have a training by a profession so that they become certified in producing Improved Stoves and in so doing be accredited by “Mbaula” a network of Stove Producers and consumers in Malawi. Lack of funding for this training made this obstacle to be outstanding. The women produce the Improved stoves I the community and sell them there too.

The opening of the bank account for the women Group would help them keep and circulate money in the group and help run the affairs of the same with ease, however this was dependent on the fact that the women start selling the Stoves with Mbaula as a network once they become certified, since the certification wasn’t achieved, the production and sells delayed.

Evaluation:

	What was the Objective/Goal ?	# Impacted	What was the indicator of success or progress for each goal?	What exactly was measured?	What outcome was desired - what was the target for this indicator? (% or whole number)	What was the baseline? (% or whole number)	What was the final outcome? (% or whole number)	What was the variance between intention and result?
	Form a women's group	10 women	Creation of the women group	The number of women in the group	To gather 20 women for the Women Group	0	10-member women group formed	More women turned up for the first meeting but only 10 women actually joined the group
	Train the women to produce 2 types of stoves	10 women	Every woman in the group can produce the 2 types of Stoves	The actual stove production by the individual members	2 stoves per woman in the Group	0	50 stoves produced (both types)	Zero Variance, all the women acquired the desired skills perfectly
	Teach other women in the community to make Stationed Stoves for their homes		Number of women	The number of women taught in producing stationed Stoves in the community	10 women	26 women were further trained by the 10-member women group	26 women further trained by the women group in making stationed type of stoves in their kitchens	15

	What was the Objective/Goal ?	# Impacted	What was the indicator of success or progress for each goal?	What exactly was measured?	What outcome was desired - what was the target for this indicator? (% or whole number)	What was the baseline? (% or whole number)	What was the final outcome? (% or whole number)	What was the variance between intention and result?
	Train the women professionally so they can be accredited by the Mbaula network	-	-	-	-	-		No professional training occurred

Append a copy of all the data forms with raw data.

Ongoing Evaluation: What are the M&E metrics that are not yet collected and were designed to continue after you leave service? Include them in the following table and attach copies of all data collection forms:

	What is the Objective/Goal?	# to Impact	What is the indicator of success or progress for each goal?	What exactly is being measured?	What outcome was desired - what was the target for this indicator? (% or whole number)	What is the source of the data?	Who is collecting the data?	How often will it be collected?
	To continue replicating the making of stationed stoves in kitchens of the community	50	At least 10 stove installation in a month	The number of households having improved stoves in their kitchens	26 households	The new households to install the stoves	Mr. Mailosi and the leadership for the women's Group	Once a month

Sustainability:

This project revolves around working directly with women in Chitete community. After the women group was formed, and the trainings done which led to the successful completion of two prototypes for the stoves, a leadership structure was placed for the Group comprising of several positions.

To ensure there's continuity and sustainability, all the members of the women group were well trained in the production of all the types of stoves. A volunteer supervisor was appointed to be working with the women and offer guidance and direction whenever necessary when I am gone. This supervisor is a teacher at the local junior Primary school called Chitete in the same community.

Tools Used:

The innovators campus; this helped us a lot when we were doing our prototypes, we were able to design and think through our work and discover new ways of doing and making our designs for the stoves.

Budget: This project was not submitted to CorpsAfrica to request funding

CorpsAfrica Budget Template

PROJECT	<i>Integrated Women Empowerment Through Improved-Stove Production</i>			
SITE	Chitete/Paterson			
VOLUNTEER	Emas Potolani			
		BUDGETED	ACTUAL	VARIANCE
1	LABOR			
	Local	0	0	0
	Consultants	0	0	0
	Total Labor:	0	0	0
2	TRANSPORTATION			
	Type: Local carriage by women on their heads	0	0	0
	Total Transportation:	0	0	0

3	EQUIPMENT			
	Equipment/Capital	52,000	0	52,000
	Supplies			
	Training Materials	16,600	0	16,600
	Support	0	0	0
	Total Equipment:	68,600	0	68,600
4	ADDITIONAL PROJECT COSTS			
	Describe miscellaneous items	0	0	0
	Total Additional Costs:	0	0	0
	TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET/COSTS			
5	IN KIND CONTRIBUTIONS	Cash Equivalent		
	Describe individual items	48,000	40,000	8,000
	Describe individual services	5,000	3,000	2,000
TOTALS:		190,200	43,000	147,200

MONTHLY PROJECT TRACKER

Month	June	July	August	September	October
Phase of the project	Planning	Planning	Planning	Implementing	Implementing
How many partner organizations are you working with	1 to 2	1 to 2	1 to 2	1 to 2	1 to 2
Please list the names of organizations	FOMA, MAEVE	FOMA, MAEVE	FOMA, MAEVE	FOMA, MAEVE	FOMA, MAEVE
How many people can you estimate were involved in the prototype phase	11 or more	11 or more	11 or more	11 or more	11 or more
How many people can you estimate benefitted from the prototype phase	21 to 30	21 to 30	21 to 30	21 to 30	21 to 30

Major obstacles	I can't recall one so far	Clay	Technical expertise	Funding for the training and the equipment	Funding for the training by an expert for the women to be accredited as mbaula producers
Obstacle resolved	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
If no, what are you doing	Resolved	Resolved	Resolved	Waiting for results of the FOMA grant is not yet out	Thinking through again on possible way outs
Successes of this project	Grouping women together to form the group for quite a short period was a great success	The making of so many prototype samples with the women and their ever diligence in the project	The major success is that we have managed to come up with a cool design and everyone in our group is able to produce a stove on their own which means once production begins, the group will manage to produce as many stoves as possible.	Forming up a women's group wasn't any easy, being male was going to be hard and difficult, especially looking at how people in rural communities perceive things when a male is working with women.	Women training other women in producing mbaula even when i was in Morocco
Lessons from the project	Women are very much excited about being empowered, often times they don't get practically empowered through our theoretical methods of empowerment. Socioeconomic empowerment for women is	Never give up even when you are not getting what you envisioned, keep moving, you'll eventually get there	The women, have impeccable knowledge and skills, they need to be allowed to take the lead and allow them be themselves so they can bring out the best in them	It is always a good thing to start simple when doing things, you grow systematically from such	Always let the community or people you work directly with take the lead in implementation

	a realistic way to achieve women empowerment, and am glad my project is in that direction. bingo!!!				
Risk status	Low	Medium	Low	Medium	High
Explain the risk status	The risk is at a low status, there are not enough suitable soil/Clay in our village since most of it is sandy and cannot fit the production of the improved stoves, we are still searching for a reliable source of this clay to sustain our project	We struggled to get a good prototype so that we can actually begin the official production of the stoves, it hasn't been rosy for the past weeks but we are getting there. And our further partnership with MBAULA an association for Biomass issue in Malawi gives me hope that this project will eventually blossom a lot	We already have a working partnership with the organization I referred above, hence I wouldn't say the risk is high or medium, but low, I believe this will work out to our good	Funding for the training, until our funding is secured, then our project will easily be implemented with ease, all I can do is wait for the result and if not successful, I will go ahead and apply to CorpsAfrica	FOMA has turned down funding for the project, making it hard for me to continue as planned
Project status	On-Time	Delayed	On-Time	Delayed	Delayed
Activities planned for the month	Holding brief meetings to prepare the women on the production and lower or manage the expectations.	More Prototypes and getting more suitable clay	Burning of the stoves in an ordinary oven like, to make sure the stoves are concrete, Mai Molande and Mai Ntaba were responsible for this.	Gathering more clay and making some more stoves- Led by Mai Ntaba and Mai Moland, campaigning for cook-stoves for the people in the community to be buying our stoves the way they are so as to join the fight in climate change on community level- Mai	Following up on funding - Emas

				Ntaba, and Emas	
Activities in progress	Recruiting of women basing on interest, those that are interested were recruited outright	We did more prototypes as planned and we discovered good clay which has encouraged the women and the group.	Sourcing more clay		Follow up on funding- Emas
Activities completed	One woman a Mrs. Molande was assigned to be in charge of logistics for our meetings, collect names of the women and put them in a temporary database	searching for more suitable clay was done by the women led by Mai Molande and Mai Chikuse; wife to the VDC chair	the training, by Emas	Gathering more clay and making some more stoves- Led by Mai Ntaba and Mai Molande. the women made some more stoves and actually started teaching others to produce even when I went for a vacation	
Some unanticipated outcomes	I thought that the soil here would not give us a huge deal but then it has been discovered that not all the soils here can sustain this project, as a low-level risk, we are trying to find ourselves a reliable source right here so we can always go and tap the soil for our production	We never calculated and anticipated massive cracks for our first Prototypes, we thought having good clay would save us the cracks in our stoves	We somehow thought that we wouldn't need more expertise in the actual production and as we continued to prototype, we discovered that we will badly need an expert's hand in this	I thought it will be an easy project especially with the production of the stoves, but MAEVE advises that there's need for an intensive training which may actually need a lot more money	Didn't think that the women group would require to be accredited by Mbaula group for them to begin benefiting from the same
What improvements	It is somehow early to point improvements since we are working on the prototype so	Our partnership which is being established with MBAULA will enhance	To keep tracking the Renew"N"able guys	Encouraging the women more, so they lose no heart	A thorough market research is essential in making progress

can be made	far, but I think we need to check that we are systematic in marketing our products	quality and good production plus a good network of market for our products and I believe this will boost the project and enhance our productivity as well.		at the delay of the funding	on these projects especially involving products
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