



Finalist's case study



ENACTUS IMPERIAL COLLEGE LONDON

Enterprise

Kenya Jiko Stove



Profile

- Social entrepreneurship society
- 80 student members in 2016-2017

About the project

Summary

Kenya Jiko Stoves was launched in June 2016 with by Enactus Imperial and MASH Foundation. Utilising the scientific knowledge available to us, our Enactus members worked on an improved method for cooking, to replace the use of traditional 3 stone stove. Members of the community in Gaichanjiru were taught to built the Jiko Stove and started an enterprise. This enabled us to provide between 15 and 20 households with the Jiko Stove, which means that the approximately 52 villagers are currently using the stove on a daily basis and are saving approximately 50-66% of firewood purchase per day.

Project partners

NGO, MASH Foundation and Engineers Without Borders (EWB) Imperial College London

The results

The problem

In Gaichanjiru 90% of the villagers are living below the poverty line, not having a stable source of income within their village. Endemic poverty was identified as the major problem in the community which led to further problems, out of which, poor health conditions from firewood smoke was the side effect.

The approach

The Jiko Stoves project aims to introduce Jiko stoves, which are more efficient energy production units, to the community in Kenya as an alternative to the traditional method of burning firewood. Currently, the Jiko stoves available in Kenya are too expensive for the residents of Gaichanjiru, who are plagued with financial difficulties. Tacking both these problems, we are teaching the villagers the necessary skills to produce a cheaper Jiko stove using locally sourced materials some rudimentary business skills, so that they can not only use these stoves, thus reducing their costs and improving environmental conditions, but also sell them to neighbouring villages to earn a living for themselves, run the business themselves, and improve their employability.

Obstacles and solutions

Trust Issues	Creating a regulatory system for local entrepreneurs to ensure consistency of price of stoves sold and consistency in the quality of the stove
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Lack of knowledge in storing and using firewood efficiently	Creating a manual on how to use and store fire wood and conducting workshops on it during the next expedition
No track record on paper for each stove built	Creating a regulatory system for local entrepreneurs, so that each stove has to be recorded.

Performance and results

Since January 2017 for the members of the self-help groups, between 15-20 stoves households have been provided with Jiko Stoves. The impact on the individual households as well as on the members of the self-help groups is as follows:

- Financial: Increasing the number of sources of income for members of the community via saving money spent on firewood. The impact measurement carried out in June 2017 has showed that the efficiency of the stove has increased for approximately 50%. The individuals trained to built the stove have an additional income provided from Jiko Stove manufacturing business.
- Social: Reduced unemployment and hence drug use, development of more local businesses as self-help groups can fund more people to start their own businesses, more children able to continue with their education
- Physical: Less smoke generated from stoves leads to improvement of respiratory issues as well as more water can be boiled, as the stove is more efficient and so more drinkable water is made available.

The future

Lessons learned

During the second expedition, it was learned that while people are eager to improve their living condition, trust issues are a big problem. So in the upcoming months the objectives of the project are to create a micro financing scheme for the local entrepreneurs and ensure that the quality of the built Jiko Stove is consistent. Hence, a registration system for is going to be created for those who were taught how to build the stove directly/indirectly from MASH & Enactus with a given "certificate/license" as a means to ensure the legitimacy of the MASH trainers that meets the required builder's standard and to keep track of the impact/empowerment measurement (the NGO is implementing the changes at the moment).

Top 3 learnings from implementing your project

- Members of the community that took part in the provided business workshops are eager to acquire new skills and learn more on how to improve their living conditions.
- The lack of drinkable water was identified as one of the main struggles in the community, as there is no water distribution system. Once the rainwater runs out the water from the river has to be used, which due to the lack of firewood, cannot be boiled causing health problems.
- Due to the lack of stable income it was decided that from each bag of vermiculite given to the entrepreneurs is going to be repaid bag in the form of social work.



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Sharing your project

We have shared it with all the members of Enactus, as well as other societies within Imperial in order to increase awareness and interest.

What has it meant to your institution to be a Green Gown Award finalist?

This is a huge step for our society, and we are thrilled to have been given this opportunity. We hope it will help us develop our projects even further and take them to greater heights.

Further information

<https://union.ic.ac.uk/cag/enactus/>

www.greengownawards.org.uk

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