


Successful Trends of Fuel Switching in Sudan

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Indoor Air Pollution: the problem

- High dependence on biomass fuels for household energy in Sudan
- Smoke from cooking fires contributes to serious health problems especially for women and children
- Worldwide, indoor smoke contributes to the death of 1.6 million people every year – more than malaria (WHO figures)
- Biomass use causes environmental degradation and desertification

■ Indoor Air Pollution: ITDG project

- 1st phase: to empower poor people to reduce the major health risks, especially to women and children, caused by smoke from kitchen fires (2002-2004)
 - Research on levels of indoor air pollution (30 households)
 - Raising awareness in the community
 - Piloting interventions to reduce indoor air pollution (LPG)
 - Design a strategy for scaling up
- 2nd phase: to take the findings to more people (2004-2007)

■ Strategies for scaling up

1. Working through Women Development Associations (WDA)
2. Seed money to revolving funds
3. Awareness and training
4. The role of partners
5. Monitoring and evaluation

Women Development Associations

- 11 branches in Kassala in different residential areas including 2 slums (the research area)
- Approximately 500 members
- Each branch has a bank account, and its own revolving fund system.
- Involved in income-generating activities
- ITDG worked through the revolving fund system, so women bought stoves, with affordable instalments. Total price ranges from SD 3,700 to SD 17,900
- WDA now have shops selling stoves & cylinders at reasonable prices.

Seed money for revolving funds

- ITDG and ACORD provided seed money, so more loans can be given, and more women can benefit quickly.
- WDA can pay the gas companies for the cylinder price at twelve equal monthly instalments. So the WDA has more money available for loans to more women.
- Women make a down-payment (SD 1,000) which also adds to the seed money.

■ Awareness and Training

- Awareness sessions by stakeholders: lectures, exhibitions, meetings, demonstration, training sessions
- Radio & TV programmes about energy alternatives, led to requests from 4 other areas
- Cultural groups in the slum areas
- Partners involved in training and awareness include: State Ministry of Health, FCN, Environment Conservation Society, Civil Defence.

■ Monitoring and Evaluation

- Beneficiaries participate in monitoring and evaluating the project throughout. They recommended that it needs to reach even more women.
- The WDAs and partners meet regularly to monitor progress, especially of the revolving fund.

Achievements

- 925 households switched to LPG by April 2005 by using project seed money.
- There are requests for extending project activities to other cities and towns.
- Indoor air pollution has been reduced by 80%.
- Word of mouth, seeing the improvement in people's homes and affordability, means many more people come forward.

Lessons

- The project was a success because it addressed a key need, and offered an affordable, effective solution.
- Involving partners and stakeholders from the beginning is crucial to scaling up.
- Working through existing community systems and savings leads to faster scaling up.

■ Future vision

- Sudan homes are free from indoor air pollution.
- The project and partners hope to move to other areas of the country.
- The project will start to tackle the remaining 20% of indoor smoke – some of which is caused by kerosene lamps and candles for lighting.