



HOPELVB ENERGY-EFFICIENT STOVES

Showing Promise for the Health of Women and the Environment in the Lake Victoria Basin

ADDRESSING AN URGENT NEED

Bussi Island is located in the Wakiso district, which suffers a deforestation rate of 86.7 percent. The leading cause of deforestation is the increased demand for agricultural land, charcoal, and fuel wood by a rapidly growing population. The majority of villagers often cook using the three-brick/stone method, which (1) requires massive consumption of firewood, (2) increases carbon emissions, and (3) has serious consequences for people's health. Over time, women that use this method of cooking may suffer blurred vision and lung disease.

INTRODUCING A POWERFUL ALTERNATIVE

To promote hassle-free cooking and a healthy environment for women in their homes, the Health of People and Environment in Lake Victoria Basin (HoPE-LVB) project introduces two types of energy-efficient smokeless stoves on Bussi island. The Shielded Fire Rocket stove and the Lorena stove both use a single fuel feeding port; however, the former

is a one-pan stove and latter, a two-pan stove. Both stoves rely on local materials, and are simple to build, maintain, and use.

HoPE LVB promotes this smokeless, energy-efficient technology, enabling villagers to use less firewood and protect their health and eyesight. The introduction of the stoves has contributed to conservation of firewood, hygienic cooking atmosphere, reduction in health hazards and cooking time, and diffused deforestation. Importantly, when women no longer are forced to spent their days collecting firewood, they can devote more time to community problem-solving and income generation for their families.

SUPPORTING WOMEN TO BECOME CHANGE AGENTS

To date, the campaign has been very successful; the community has responded positively, embracing the intervention. Within five months, 1,000 stoves have been constructed. As part of energy-linked livelihood for women, HoPE-LVB has trained 14 women to construct stoves, so they can

charge a fee and augment their income. Using the money they have earned, the group, which calls themselves "Kyanjazi Environment Group" has become legally registered. These women have become change agents for the creation of energy-efficient stoves and more.

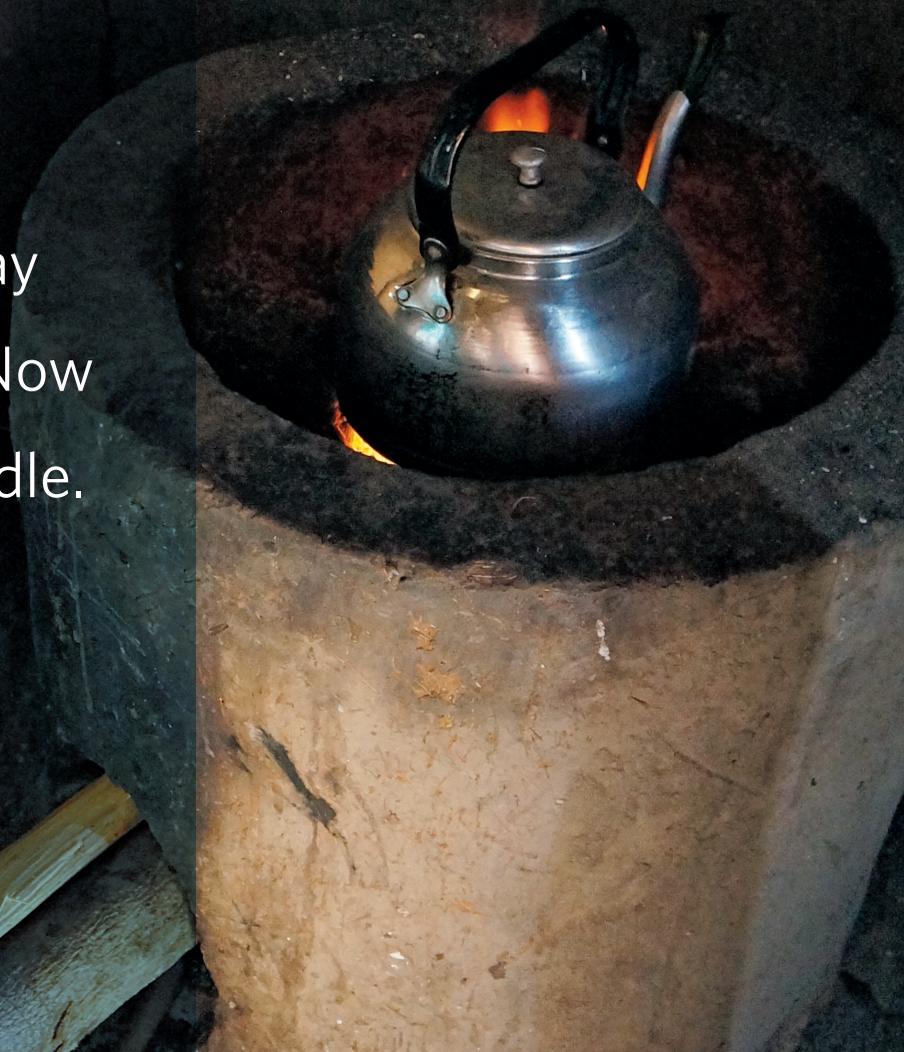
INTEGRATING CONSERVATION AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

In this community, half the female stove builders were also trained as village health teams (VHT) to offer family planning services and information to their community.

The overall goal of HoPE-LVB is to reduce threats to biodiversity conservation and ecosystem degradation in the lake basin, while simultaneously increasing access to family planning and sexual and reproductive health to improve maternal and child health in project communities. The energy-efficient stove campaign exemplifies the power of this integration and the HoPE-LVB project.

“Before, I used three bundles of wood per day to cook for my family. Now I use less than one bundle. One piece of wood can cook the whole day.”

—Mwagale Zabina of Jaguzi Island



“I used to suffer from respiratory infections due to a lot of smoke. Now I can even do other work in the kitchen as I cook. These stoves cook very fast and save a lot of firewood. Now I only go out to collect firewood after 2 months. Before I had to collect firewood every week.”

—Mrs Mpumi Juma on the health benefits of her stove

“I am a single mother, not able to construct my kitchen. But I made my stoves under a tree. They cook very fast, save on wood. I can even use twigs to cook a meal, safe from fire hazards. Even small children can be near the stove while I cook.”

—Amiria, a stove builder from Bussi Island

The women that have embraced the energy-efficient stove campaign exemplify the power of PHE integration. HoPE-LVB is here to support them.

The HoPE-LVB project has been made possible by the generosity of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, individual donors, and USAID, and through partnerships between:

