



In this project, refugees in Chad are provided with CooKits. These solar cookers have a positive impact on the safety and health of people who live in very difficult circumstances. Moreover, by using the power of the sun when cooking, less wood is used and CO₂ is saved.

Background

Since the war in Darfur there have been more than 200,000 Sudanese who fled to neighboring Chad. These refugees have sometimes been staying in one of the 12 refugee camps in the border region for more than 15 years. A short-term solution does not seem an option for most families.

Cooking on an open fire is one of the many challenges that people face. The camps are located in a very dry region where little wood is available. This creates conflicts between the local population and refugees who need the scarce wood for cooking. Women and children often have to travel long distances to get wood and they are regularly harassed, assaulted, abducted or, in the worst case, do not return at all.

Solar cookers

To address this problem, the CooKit solar cooker was launched in 2005 in six refugee camps. The CooKit is a solar cooker that can be used for cooking with the help of solar energy, which is abundant in Chad.

The CooKit has a simple design and is made of cardboard and aluminum foil. Sunlight is reflected through the foil on a black-painted pan that is contained in a heat-resistant plastic bag in which the warm air circulates. After the cooker has been in the sun for 2 to 3 hours, most dishes are ready. With a so-called Guffah, an insulating wicker basket, the food can be kept at the right temperature until dinner.

The CooKits are manufactured locally in six workshops that are spread out over the camps. Every workplace is fully run by around 20 women. Every family receives 2 CooKits, a training for use and they are asked to make a personal contribution of 1000 francs (€1.50) as compensation for the work of the women in the studios.

Impact

By using the CooKit women and children no longer have to leave the camp to get wood. This means a considerable improvement of their safety and also saves a lot of time. For example, there are women who have used this time to start selling handmade goods at the local market. Another advantage is that cooking with the CooKit is a clean and healthy alternative to the traditional way of cooking, because it is completely smokeless. Moreover, this means that less CO₂ is emitted and less wood is used, which reduces the pressure on the already scarce stock of wood.

More information:

<https://fairclimatefund.nl/en/projects/chad-solar-cookers-for-refugee-families>



7,000

Solar cookers installed



15,000

Refugees helped



52,000

Tonnes of CO₂ reduced



Ambition

Since the start of the project, around 40,000 women in the refugee camps and surrounding villages have been trained and provided with CookKits. Solar cooking requires a significant behavioral change and many families have been cooking with this technology for more than 10 years, which is a remarkable achievement. The challenge is to continue to offer users access to this technology and to connect new camps to the project. FairClimateFund has supported this project since 2019 by Gold Standard certifying the CO₂ savings resulting from reduced wood consumption. With the income from these certificates or carbon credits we ensure that the women in these camps can continue to cook with the CookKit in the future.

"IT GIVES US A FEELING OF JUSTICE AND SECURITY"



Benefits of the project

Health

- Clean cooking method prevents the inhalation of harmful smoke
- Less physical strain because no more wood has to be brought in for cooking



Climate and environment

- Reduced wood use
- Reduced CO₂ emissions



Social

- Fewer local conflicts and better safety for women and children
- Women and children can spend more time on family and education



Economic

- Time-saving options for women to generate more income
- Local production of CookKits creates employment



Contribution to the SDG's

Do you want more information about this project?

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This project is Gold Standard certified

