Vida Mejor
Cookstoves
Honduras

Improving air quality, reducing deforestation and creating cost savings for communities

This project helps households and small businesses transition from inefficient conventional firewood stoves by providing improved efficiency, clean-burning firewood cooking stoves (ICS). Pressure on forests is reduced while living conditions are improved thanks to less harmful indoor pollution.
As the stoves require less firewood, women and children can spend more time at school or with their families instead of collecting wood.

The Context
According to the Global Climate Risk Index, Honduras ranks as one of the countries most affected by climate change, whose effects increase due to deforestation and forest degradation. Cutting down trees for use in traditional wood fire stoves, which require large amounts of fuel and emit harmful smoke that causes serious eye and respiratory problems, contributes to this environmental crisis.

The Project
The project has so far distributed over 160,000 improved cookstoves (ICS) to Honduran households. These stoves are more efficient than traditional firewood stoves as they reduce heat loss and improve heat transfer and combustion efficiency in the pot. The ICS model is far more fuel efficient, with a streamlined assembly and construction to reduce costs and production times. The project aims to create a sustainable supply chain of stoves to facilitate access to improved technology.

The Benefits
As the stoves require less fuel for cooking, the project reduces the demand for biomass required for cooking stoves thus lowering the rate of deforestation associated with fuelwood consumption. The improved stoves emit far less smoke, improving air quality and avoiding harmful gas emissions that contribute to climate change. From an economic perspective, the project helps local business and organisations scale-up, with the potential to create jobs in retail, marketing and distribution.

For more information on the UN Sustainable Development Goals, please visit: http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/

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