



The Cookstove Project

NEWSLETTER Vol 5, 2020

Holiday Greetings!

Dear Friends,

While this global pandemic has disrupted our lives here in America, it has also had a tremendous impact on our work in Uganda and Nepal. In both countries, our teams faced restrictions due to periodic lockdowns designed to prevent the spread of the virus. The good news, however, is that we are currently back at work and building cookstoves in both areas.

By the end of 2020, our staff will have constructed over 3,500 clean cookstoves and the total number of cookstoves built in the last seven years will be over 18,300.

In Uganda and Nepal our teams are working hard to catch up on our goals and to help as many families as possible. They are ready to regain the momentum that was building in the first months of this year.

We therefore need to quickly rebuild capacity in order to address the pent-up demand for cookstoves, but we are facing a challenge; the majority of our fundraising efforts are usually through in-person presentations and events, and these have slowed down significantly this year due to COVID.

WE NEED YOUR HELP! Please consider making The Cookstove Project a part of your giving this year. A gift of \$100 builds clean cookstoves for 10 households, improving the health of approximately 50 people and reducing environmental impact. Every \$10 substantially changes a family's life!

Thank you for your continued support for our work. I wish you and your families a safe and happy holiday season!



Rebecca Sommer

President, The Cookstove Project
rebecca@cookstoveproject.org

OUR SUCCESS RESULTS OF OUR LATEST FIELD STUDY

- **PNEUMONIA:**
instances of pneumonia decreased by 44%
- **BURNS:**
severe burns caused by cooking reduced 81%
- **BOILING WATER:**
the number of families that boiled water before drinking it more than doubled
- **COLLECTING FIREWOOD:**
the hours needed to collect firewood was reduced by 41%
- **COOKING TIMES:**
the time spent cooking meals was reduced 51%

FOLLOW US



Visit

cookstoveproject.org

This newsletter is made possible through the generous support of the Presbyterian Church of Mt Kisco

GETTING BACK TO FULL SPEED IN UGANDA

See page 2



MOVING FORWARD IN NEPAL

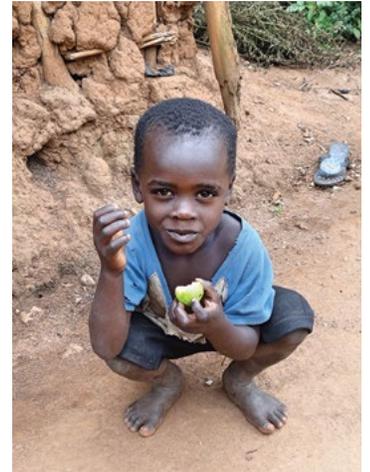
See page 3



Getting Back to Full Speed in **Uganda**

We are facing a significant backlog of demand for cookstoves but we are limited in our capacity to respond!

After several months of a severe lockdown to combat the coronavirus, the people of Uganda are slowly returning to a more normal life. The period of the lockdown was a very difficult time for those who live in the rural villages. Stores, schools, churches and public transportation were all closed and the school closures meant that families had to provide an extra meal for their children.



The lockdown has now been lifted and Africano, CSP's national director, is excited to resume the growth that had been taking place before the crisis.

In January of this year, CSP installed 270 stoves, a 45% increase over January 2019's total and, thanks a growth in organizational capacity, we were on pace to install 350 per month by the end of this year.

Unfortunately, the pandemic derailed all of those plans. We would now like to make up for all of that lost time but sadly, CSP is not in a position to seize this opportunity for growth.

Our primary means of raising funds in the US is through presentations to civic and other organizations and to the general public, but these have essentially been eliminated during the restrictions of the pandemic. The lack of funding meant, for example, that we were forced to cancel plans to hire new Ugandan staff and we have not replaced anyone that has retired or moved on.

So this is our current dilemma—we are facing a significant backlog of demand for cookstoves but we are limited in our capacity to respond!





Moving Forward in Nepal

In 2020 our Nepal team set the goal of providing clean cookstoves to 1500 families. The team got off to a great start when the Thakre Rural Municipality agreed to provide the materials for 1000 cookstoves! With work also going forward in Balephi and Gaurishankar to install 250 cookstoves in each municipality, we expected to reach the goal by the end of the year. Cookstove masters were working hard and all was on schedule until the third week of March when, with the coronavirus spreading throughout Nepal, the government announced a country-wide lockdown.

All transportation was shut down, with only essential workers permitted to drive. Life in the villages became very difficult and access to food and supplies was limited. It became impossible for the Cookstove Project to continue our work as our cookstove masters needed to head home to their families.

Despite the challenging situation, Bambie Panta, CSP's director in Nepal, continued to find ways to build cookstoves. Two of our cookstove masters were stranded in the village where they were working and were able to finish construction of the remaining cookstoves, while waiting for the opportunity to head home. Our other cookstove masters were unable to work and remained in their home village.

During this time, Bambie was able to establish a new partnership with Giring Rural Municipality to build 300 cookstoves as soon as the situation in Nepal improved. The lockdown lifted at the end of October and cookstove masters in that area are now back to work. As things open up more, the plan is to rehire our cookstove masters to continue on course toward our goal of providing families with clean cookstoves!

Cookstove masters were working hard and all was on schedule until the third week of March when, with the coronavirus spreading throughout Nepal, the government announced a country-wide lockdown.



FUNDRAISING EVENTS 2020

A COVID-Safe Arts Event Links Hearts

In October, the Cookstove Project hosted an outdoor movie event in a local park in Briarcliff, NY. Along with the award-winning film, **DANCING JOY**, the evening featured live dance and musical performances, a silent auction, a raffle and refreshment sales. With the support of local partners, the event raised enough funds to build cookstoves for more than 500 families!

A Half-Dozen Teens Turn Donuts to Dollars!

When six teens in La Canada, California, partnered with Krispy Kreme Donuts to raise money for The Cookstove Project, they set the ambitious goal of providing cookstoves to an entire village. They developed a social media campaign and in one week, they had orders for more than 60 dozen donuts. The teens raised a total of \$1,365. This means that 136 Ugandan families in the village of Lusera will be receiving new cookstoves.

We Need Your Support

4 million people, mostly women and children, will die this year from household air pollution due to open fire cooking. This number of deaths ranks higher than the number of annual deaths from malaria, HIV/AIDS, or tuberculosis.

Inefficient cooking is a root cause of poverty, poor health, gender inequality, environmental degradation, and climate change.

\$20 will provide clean Cookstoves for two families

\$100 will provide clean Cookstoves for ten families

\$1000 will help save the health of a whole village!

Please make check payable to **The Cookstove Project**.

Mail to The Cookstove Project, 24 Link Drive, Rockleigh, NJ 07647.

Donate by credit card at www.cookstoveproject.org



The Cookstove Project is a 501(C)3 public charity. All donations are tax deductible.

Looking for a unique HOLIDAY GIFT!

This year combine your gifting with your giving! Give your friends and family something different—the gift of saving lives through purchasing a clean cookstove.

Make a donation to The Cookstove Project in their names. A beautiful holiday card, acknowledging your gift to them, will be sent.

For each \$20 donated, you will be providing clean cookstoves for two families. You can choose the number of cookstoves for your gift.

Please send your requests for cards and any questions to rebecca@cookstoveproject.org

Happy Holidays!

The Cookstove Project

24 Link Drive

Rockleigh, NJ 07647