

From waste to fuel: Nairobi women's 'briquettes'

In the slums of Nairobi, a few groups of women produce 'briquettes' of fuel from the organic waste they have collected and sorted. They then sell these briquettes at affordable prices to families living in the slums, as an alternative fuel to wood, coal and other, often toxic materials (including plastics) used to cook in a country where 90% of household food is prepared on an open fire. This promotion of innovation and female entrepreneurship has multiple effects: a) generation of income for those producing the briquettes, b) reduction of deforestation caused by the daily search for shrubs and firewood by thousands of women and children, c) reduction of urban waste, d) improvement in the cooking and food preparation conditions in homes, as the briquettes produce less smoke and sparks, and last longer than wood.

Project beneficiaries

The project is mainly aimed at the 100 women producing the briquettes, who live in the Nairobi slums. Their families (around 600 people) are indirectly affected due to the income generated by the activity, and the communities of the 5 districts of Nairobi involved, who will benefit from a healthier, safer environment.

Aims

The project aims to develop a network for training and entrepreneurship in the field of sustainable energy and to contribute to the development of community, with particular focus on marginalised women. It will create decent, sustainable jobs and the women will be empowered to generate income through micro- and small-scale enterprises within the informal economy.

To achieve these aims, activities will be carried out to raise awareness and mobilise the public on the issues of environmental degradation and retraining. Training will then be provided to the groups of women who produce the briquettes, which will then be sold on thanks to the involvement of Alfatar.

Location

Kenya, Nairobi, the districts of Westlands, Dagoretti, Kasarani, Starehe and Embakasi.

Duration

11.5 months (project began January 2015)

Partners

Terra Nuova, Alfatar Development Association

Financial support

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