



COOKING UP CHANGE IN TANZANIA

The Halcrow Foundation has donated £7,000 to support the Sunseed Tasmanian Trust's (STT) fuel efficient stove programme. Working with three villages in the semi-arid Dodoma province, central Tanzania, STT aims to promote the use of, and help to build, sustainable mud stoves.

Currently, local women cook on open fires inside their huts. As well as being highly inefficient requiring large quantities of fuel, the indoor fires spew out smoke – leading to eye and respiratory conditions – and are prone to spillages, causing burns. Harvesting wood for fuel has led to chronic deforestation in the region, with 92 per cent of residents relying on vulnerable forests for survival.



Insulated mud stoves – constructed with locally-sourced, sustainable materials – drastically reduce the fuel requirements for cooking. Less wood to be collected means fewer trips carrying heavy loads, exposed to the risk of potential animal or sexual attacks. This frees up time for schooling or income-generating activities. External chimneys direct smoke out of the cooking area, promoting better health.

With the foundation's backing, STT will train selected villagers as stove builders, provide support to invest the money they earn from this work, and monitor stove quality and performance to resolve any arising problems.

Over the course of the first year, the aim is for 25-30 per cent of households in each village to gain an efficient mud stove. By the end of 2009, between 750 and 1,000 households – approximately 3,000-4,000 people – will benefit from the Halcrow Foundation's donation.

Find out more at www.sunseedtanzania.org