



A NEW STOVE MEANS A NEW WAY OF LIVING

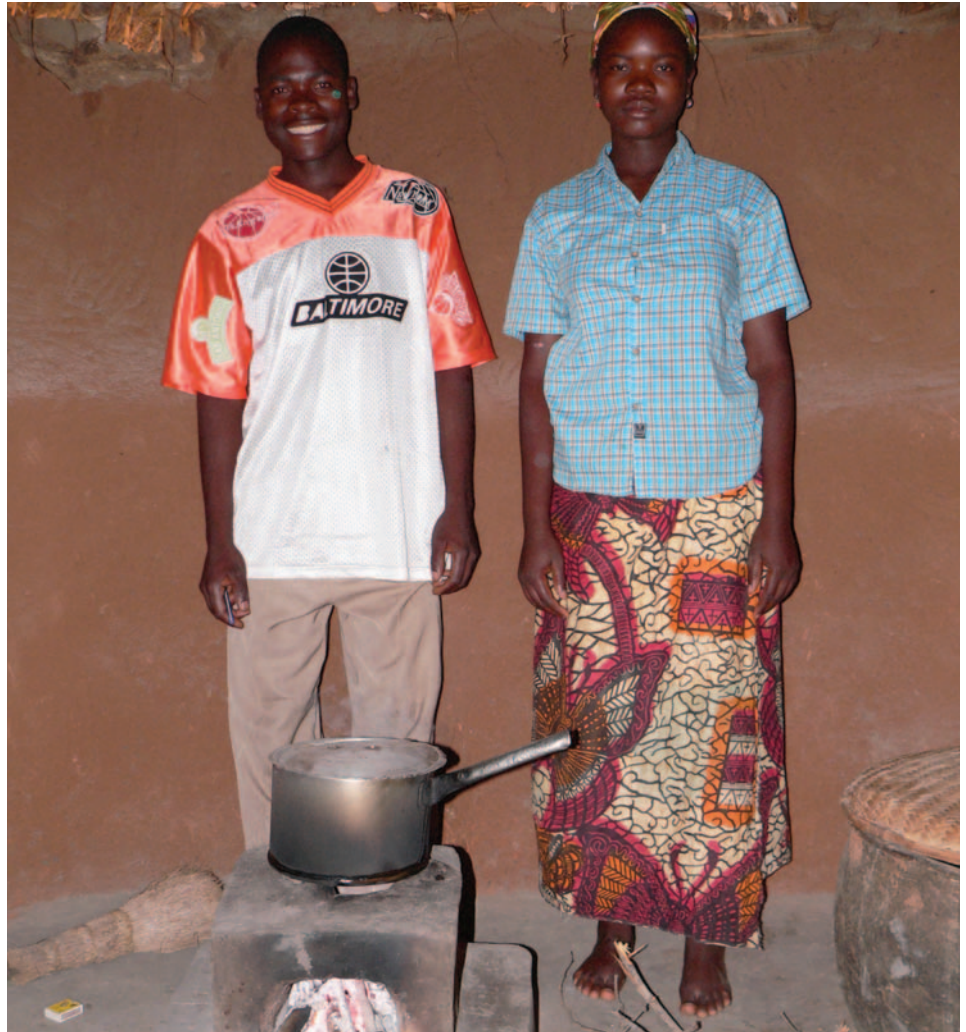
Sipeyala Phiri and his wife are small-scale farmers of Kasalika village in the Eastern Province of Zambia. The couple have a farm covering just over three hectares. They are members of Chamiwawa Strategic Action Group—a typical community-based group formed by CLWR to advance ideas, training and support.

Sipeyala Phiri took training in natural resources and environmental protection, facilitated by CLWR in collaboration with the local forestry department. One of the components covered during the training was the use of a clay stove designed to reduce wood fuel consumption.

“I sympathized with the difficulties my wife encountered in searching for firewood. I remember one day when she came home with a high fever, carrying a bundle of firewood on her head. Despite being sick, she had to walk about five kilometres from our village to collect firewood. My wife readily agreed when I proposed the idea of building the stove. The following day we collected required materials (termite mounds, wood ash, seven bricks and river sand). We invited the field officer, village headmen and community members to come and see the construction—which only took two hours.”

Once built, the stove takes two weeks to cure, somewhat like cement. Mrs. Phiri continues the story at this point.

“I started the first fire with two sticks of 30 cm each since I was not convinced that the stove would work as claimed by my husband. I discovered that it was very easy to get the fire going compared to the way we normally make fire in our community,



and I did all the cooking for the day using only these two pieces of wood!

“I decided to test the effectiveness of the stove by cooking velvet beans, locally known as Chitedze, which is known for its incredibly long cooking time (usually take 12 hours to be fully cooked), but took only six hours to cook on this stove. In fact, it was overcooked and pulverised. Preparing Nshima (maize meal porridge) only took minutes instead of the usual 30 to 45 minutes!”

Now, the Phiris spend less time

collecting wood from the already environmentally depleted area, less time cooking, and have more time and energy to spend constructively in other ways.

Simple ideas like these—a new stove design, a strategically placed well, a new way of planning crops—are some of the basic yet vital ways in which CLWR helps dramatically improve the lives of those in countries like Zambia and Mozambique, while protecting the environment.



WHAT IS THE STOVE PROJECT?

The Fuel Efficient Stove Project will train local villages how to build a type of fuel-efficient stove that uses half the firewood while cutting cooking time in half as well.

HOW DOES THE STOVE WORK?

The stoves are constructed using locally-sourced, renewable and free material. The stove is built in such a way to maximize the amount of heat to the pot and to minimize the amount of heat lost into the stove walls, floor and into the air. There is also a reduction in the amount of smoke generated inside the dwelling.

WHERE IS THE PROJECT RUNNING?

In Eastern Province, Zambia and Tete Province, Mozambique. This is where Canadian Lutheran World Relief works with the local Lutheran World Federation partner in long-term rural community development.

HOW CAN I HELP?

Make a donation today to the Stove Project. While the material for the stove is freely available, it costs to send trained staff into villages to share construction techniques and assistance.

MATERIALS USED IN STOVE CONSTRUCTION

- Small termite mounds
- Sand
- Wood ash (used as an insulator)
- Seven bricks
- Building tools (shovel, trowel)
- Water