

FOCUS on Irish Aid in Malawi



MALAWI - Country File

Location: South-eastern Africa
 Population: 15.9 million
 Currency: Kwacha
 Capital city: Lilongwe
 Languages: Chichewa, English and others
 Exports: Tobacco, tea, sugar

Malawi is commonly called 'The warm heart of Africa'

LET'S FIND OUT ABOUT CLAY STOVES...

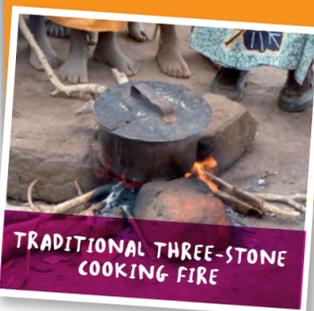
In Malawi most rural households use traditional three-stone fires for cooking. This involves sitting a pot on three stones surrounding an open fire. This type of fire uses up a lot of firewood, with the result that forests are cut down. To solve this problem Irish Aid have been working as a partner with two non-governmental organisations (NGOs), Concern Universal (UK) and a Malawian NGO, Clioma, to spread information about the benefits of clay stoves for cooking in Malawi.

Clay stoves have lots of benefits; for example, it is easier to control the fire with clay stoves, so they need less firewood, meaning that fewer trees are cut down. It is manageable for people to make or buy the stoves because they can be made using local soil, and they cost less than €1 to make.

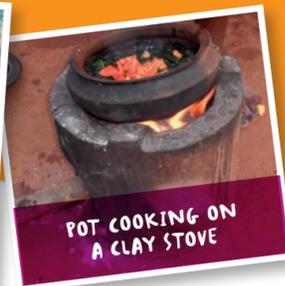
Using these stoves helps villagers in rural Malawi to protect the natural resources they rely on. This means they can manage better when problems arise and they can build a better future for themselves and their communities.

WHY CLAY COOKING STOVES?

Using clay stoves for cooking can protect the environment, help people to have better health and education, and also provides the makers of clay stoves with a way of making a living.



TRADITIONAL THREE-STONE COOKING FIRE



POT COOKING ON A CLAY STOVE

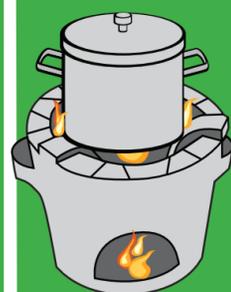


THREE-STONE COOKING FIRE

Three-stone cooking fires produce a lot of smoke which can cause pollution problems. When people live with this type of pollution for a long time they can get very sore eyes, headaches, and find it hard to breathe properly.

Three-stone cooking fires use lots of firewood. When too many trees are cut down the topsoil is often washed away when it rains, and the quality of the soil becomes poorer. This means that fewer crops grow and that crops are poor.

Women and girls are usually in charge of collecting firewood, which often takes a long time because they have to walk long distances to get enough firewood.



CLAY STOVE

Clay stoves produce less smoke so can help to lower pollution levels in kitchens.

Clay stoves use less firewood. This means that people do not cut down as many trees for cooking, the animals living in and around trees are not disturbed, soil is better quality and crops are also better.

Clay stoves use less firewood. This means that women and girls have more time, to work, rest, go to school, or to do other things in their community.

People can make and sell clay stoves and make money to support their families.

Replacing old cooking methods with clay stoves is an example of how new ways of doing things can make a real difference in the lives of poor people and communities, while at the same time protecting the environment.

CLAY STOVES AND THE SDGs

Think about all the benefits of using clay stoves and the Sustainable Development Goals that the use of clay stoves helps to progress.

The introduction of clay stoves is especially good for girls and women. This helps to achieve SDG 5, Gender Equality, so there is tick beside this SDG in the list to your right.

PUT A TICK BESIDE ANY OTHER MDGs YOU THINK ARE HELPED BY THE CLAY STOVES PROGRAMME.

- End poverty and hunger
- Make sure every child goes to school
- Make sure women and girls get the same chances as men and boys
- Reduce the numbers of small children and babies who die because of poverty
- Improve the health of mothers when they are having babies
- Fight infectious diseases
- Protect the environment for the future
- Countries will work together as partners to make the world a better place

Village Stove Clubs in Malawi

In some villages people have come together to form Stove Clubs. They work together to make and sell clay stoves. Growing numbers of these clubs are being set up in villages in Malawi.



This club in M'ganja Village has 34 members, 29 women and 5 men. The members of the club are split into manufacturing (stove makers) and marketing teams. Each stove maker marks the rim

of their stove with a special mark which allows them to identify their stoves from those of other members. The marketing team is responsible for selling and delivering the stoves.

This club has built a kiln, for heating the clay stoves until they are hard enough to use for cooking, and a storehouse for their stoves.

The club sells 300 stoves every month. They use the money they earn to buy maize (like sweetcorn), which is the main food eaten in Malawi.



ADVANCES IN TECHNOLOGY

When people in Malawi move from using the old three-stone fire to clay stoves for cooking they are making the most of advances in technology, or using new technologies to develop better, healthier and more sustainable lifestyles.

LOOK AT THE LIST BELOW. WHICH OF THESE DO YOU THINK REPRESENT ADVANCES IN TECHNOLOGY?

Typewriters



Bicycles



Mobile phones



Plough



Interactive whiteboards



Electricity

