

Local Energy and Development Centres Decreasing Poverty in Mozambique



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Over 80% of the Mozambican population depends exclusively on biomass for cooking. The lack of information and accessible technology keep the communities in this situation. The result is severe economical, environmental and health related impacts, local as well as national. To address these problems, the Local Energy and Development centres (CLEDs) have been established.

Local Ownership and Decentralization

During the last 5 years 8 CLEDs have been established in 8 districts in the Province of Sofala in northern Mozambique.

The establishment of the centres has been initiated by ADEL-Sofala in a partnership with the Danish NGO SustainableEnergy. The centres are organised and run by members of the communities. The centres are working as combined information, training, and community centres with a focus on local energy solutions and local economic development. An integrated part of the centres is an "energy shop" where the local communities can buy energy products with a focus on improved stoves and PV products to produce electricity.

At the centres, communities are trained in production of improved stoves that use biomass energy, savings and credit groups, micro maintenance of, among others, PV systems, and promotion of education for development.

The strengthening of local capacity is carried out by activists who are part of communities. During the last five years more than 60,000 people have been trained in several topics including in the local finance methodology "ASCA" (Accumulating Savings and Credit Association).

More than 200,000 USD has been saved in communities where the vast majority has a daily income below 1 USD. The saving mechanism has been linked to buying energy products that previously were not available to these communities.



Production of Improved Stoves

Economically, socially, and technically, sustainability of the centres has been crucial. In this sense, one of the main focuses is the production of improved stoves for firewood and charcoal.

Traditionally charcoal stoves are made of metal while firewood is used in the traditional three-stone fires.

The improved firewood stoves are 100% ceramic and are produced exclusively for the rural market. The products are made at the centres using clay from the area.

The improved charcoal stoves are serving the needs of the urban population. In addition to a ceramic part, these stoves have a metal part that is made by local artisans in the urban areas.

All of the products are made by members of the local communities.

The improved stoves are 50% more efficient than the old ones.

The sale of the stoves brings in alternative income for more than 50 people, and the impact on end-users' consumption of wood and charcoal has been significant.

In total 28,000 stoves have been produced, and the ambition is to make a radical change in the use of traditional stoves in Mozambique.



Photos by
ADEL-Sofala



From Local to National

The approach behind the centres has caught the interest of communities in other provinces of Mozambique.

People from the centres are now involved in empowering associations in other provinces.

These associations increase the confidence of the local communities and open their eyes to the importance of coming together to address the challenges now facing the population of Mozambique.



ADEL - Sofala Mozambique

NGO promoting economic development and poverty reduction in the Sofala province of Northern Mozambique. It disseminates sustainable energy solutions actively within its region and is involved in training, technical assistance, management of natural resources, promotion of income-generating activities. It also facilitates micro-financing.

ADEL-Sofala is member of
INFORSE

The establishment of the Centers started in 2006. It is part of a project together with SustainableEnergy (VedvarendeEnergi), Denmark, supported by DANIDA.

W: www.adelsofala.org.mz
W: www.ve.dk