



## LIONS TO START A GLOBAL PROJECT TO PROMOTE THE USE OF SOLAR COOKERS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

### AN INITIATIVE TO USE THE SUN

A group of Lions Clubs in Finland has initiated a pilot study on how sun energy could be used to replace the uncontrolled use of fire wood in developing countries. The basic idea was to improve the situation caused by two major factors. Firstly desertification, which no doubt is a global problem and secondly the huge waste of time spent by millions of women while they collect fire wood for their families.

### A PILOT STUDY

The prototype Solar Cooker was transported to Africa in 1997. A small village in east Kenya was chosen and the prototype was dedicated to one family. Very soon it became evident that in that village this kind of soft technology was the right concept. All villagers in that area wished to have their own cooker. The Lions in Finland started a resource mobilization for 30 Solar Cookers. This project has now been completed. In Ibushiliika village in Kakamega, near Lake Viktoria, solar cooking is now an everyday procedure.

The construction of such a cooker is simple. Two boxes inside each other with insulation in between. A glass window to cover the box and just let the sun shine. The inside temperature rises to more than 100 degrees Celsius. All material for building this kind of cookers is locally available. The husbands in the families are capable themselves of constructing Solar Cookers to their wives. The cost of one Cooker,



using local material is around 30–35 USD. By financing the material only, and by using the skills of the African man, the whole family becomes involved.

### GLOBAL EFFECTS

It is not only the saving of the scarce forests and woods but more important is the saving of the time needed for collecting the wood. In Africa this is traditionally women's work. Some of them spend daily several hours collecting fire wood. By liberating thousands of women from this work, they form a potential part of the population to care of the villagers, to care of the children and to care of their country. Women are a huge potential force in struggling for health, piece and care.

### LIONS, WHAT COULD WE DO

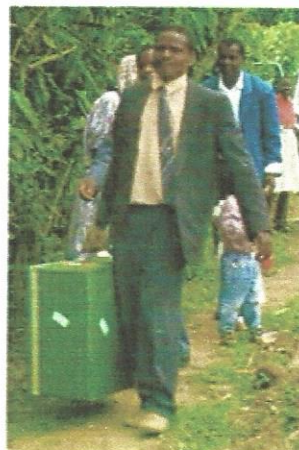
The major problems of our blue Planet are well known. Overpopulated countries form a huge area on the few Continents of our Planet. Desertification is reality partly because the overpopulation and the need for firewood. An increasing

number of women waste much of their time, energy and intelligence to collect that wood for their family. Instead they could be liberated for education. Is this something that we LIONS could strongly support?

This project has been initiated by:

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## Our steps taken so far

1. One solar cooker was constructed as an example in Finland in 1997. It was then transported as hand luggage to Kenya by a Lion employed by the UN in Gigiri, Nairobi.
2. The cooker was further transported to the Ibushilika village near Lake Victoria. A short presentation was made to about 40 women. A brief description of the simple construction and material was also given to their husbands. The cooker was left in the village for tests.
3. After a few months the message from the village was, that all families would like to get their own cooker.
4. Some funds were risen in Finland in 1998 to promote the use of Solar Cookers and to start a project. The funds were used for material for 30 cookers which was purchased in Nairobi and transported to the village.
5. A temporary construction camp was established in Ibushilika Village and in one week the husbands in the village constructed 30 more cookers to their wives.
7. Additional money has been risen in Finland and at the moment some 40 new cookers could be locally prepared in Africa.

## Some facts about Solar Cookers

- At the moment Ibushilika village has 31 cookers in everyday use.
- There is a huge need for this soft technology in the Equatorial Region all over the World
- All material needed is easily available in Africa.
- The costs of the local material for one cooker is about 35 US\$
- Drawings and instructions (see below) are as simple as can be

