

Darfur Humanitarian Stove Project Assessment Report

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Lifeline Fund**





1.0. Mission sponsors:

The mission took place between August 29 and September 16, 2005 and was sponsored by the International Lifeline Fund (“lifeline”) and the Aprovecho research center (“Aprovecho”).




Principle objective:


Explore methods for improving and expanding existing FES projects with an ultimate objective of providing as complete coverage as possible throughout Darfur with the most efficient and sustainable fuel technologies available.



Specific objectives:

- # Assessment of existing FES and fuel alternative projects in all three states of Darfur and identification of technical gaps relating to those projects.
 - # Assessment of availability of local resources that might be used to improve FES design and performance.
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- # Laying of groundwork for an FES project in Darfur by identifying shortfalls in the existing FES program, sites at which expert technical assistance will provide the greatest benefits, and potential partners to facilitate the provision of such assistance.
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Commence development of a strategic plan to improve and expand existing FES projects so as to provide as comprehensive coverage as possible with the most efficient and sustainable fuel technologies available.




5.4. Problems Associated With Fuel Efficient Stoves:


- #** First, the mud stoves tend to break down after several months use.
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By using donkey dung in the making of those stoves, IDPs may be exposing themselves to an increased risk of hepatitis.



The expansion and effectiveness of FES programs has also been hampered by a lack of overall coordination and the absence of a strategic plan for enhancing fuel efficiency throughout Darfur. As a result, stove programs have been implemented on an *ad hoc* and episodic basis by interested NGOs without sufficient attention being given to such issues as regional prioritization and the amount of coverage needed within a given region to maximize the benefits that FES programs have to offer.




The principal additional constraints on the expansion and improvement of FES programs have been: (1) a lack of technical expertise by NGOs involved or considering involvement in FES programs; and (2) security and logistical problems that have restricted NGO access to certain IDP concentrations

6.0. Conclusions:

6.1. The Current Humanitarian Crisis Presents A Unique Opportunity To Promote A Massive FES Intervention:

- # The concentration of what hitherto had been a highly dispersed population into densely crowded camps has substantially facilitated the ability of the international community to reach that population with a large-scale FES intervention.
- # At the same time, given the ability of such an intervention to reduce their vulnerability to GBV and to ameliorate the economic hardship they face, the women who are its intended beneficiaries will



Thus, the tragic humanitarian crisis that has displaced some two million Darfurian villagers has ironically facilitated the ability of the international community to assist them in a way that can have a positive, permanent and profound effect on their livelihoods and the environment in which they live.

Darfur presents a unique opportunity for a massive stove intervention.

- # The need for a stove intervention in Darfur is as great or greater than anywhere else owing to: (1) the severity of the deforestation problem; and (2) the prevalence of GBV during wood collection.
- # The population is highly concentrated and, hence, easy to reach.
- # The population is especially receptive to a stove intervention.
- # NGOs have already begun implementing stove programs.

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The UN has itself called for a massive stove intervention.

Certain constraints have prevented existing stove programs in Darfur from achieving their full potential.

- # There has been a “GBV-centric” attitude toward stove programs combined with a perception in some quarters that stoves have failed to achieve the desired GBV effect.
 - # There is no strategic plan and a lack of coordination and monitoring.
 - # There is a lack of technical expertise.
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Recommendations

To Aprovecho And Lifeline:

- # Send a team of experts to Darfur to provide technical training and assistance to NGOs with FES programs..**
 - # Partner with NGOs in Darfur, to provide continuing technical expertise.**
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7.3. To U.N. Agencies And Donor Countries:

- # Imbue a lead agency with the specific mandate to coordinate the response to environmental degradation in Darfur and to develop both short and long-term strategic plan to address environmental issues, FES, fuel alternative, conservation and reforestation programs.
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Consistent with the UN's own recommendation 2005, UNOCHA to promote FES.
