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Covenant of Mayors  
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Action : **Production of Uhai Improved Cook stove**

Organization with experience: **Uhai Lake Forum**

Type of organisation : **NGO**

CoM SSA partner City : **Kisumu City - Kenya**

Pillar of the SEACAP concerned by the initiative : **Mitigation**

### **Presentation of the organisation, description of activities, location and areas (municipalities) of intervention**

Uhai Lake Forum is a civil society organization based in Kisumu City, Kenya, Uhai works in collaboration with Kisumu County government municipality to address climate change issues through sustainable development of improved energy devices with women and youths within the urban and peri urban centres of Kisumu City, the women and youths are within the informal sectors commonly known as Jua Kali sector in Kondele, Manyatta and Nyalenda urban areas including Kibuye Open air markets, other areas are Nyahera and Katito where women are involved in making the improved cookstove liners while the youths are involved in the fabrication of metal claddings.

The improved cook stoves called Uhai Jiko reduces pollution of the environment as it emits less carbon monoxide to the atmosphere, it is user friendly, uses less charcoal and saves our forest as a climate change mitigation and adaptation practise. The device also contributes to improved health conditions among the users who are mainly women. Uhai Lake Forum has also been involved in the development of Kisumu Integrated Development Plan (KIDP) and monitoring of the same where issues of climate were incorporated in the plan.

Uhai Lake Forum in collaboration with the Municipality is contributing to the following SDG Goals, No 13- Climate Action, No 1 No Poverty, No 11-Sustainable Cities and Communities, No 7- Affordable and clean Energy, No 3- Good Health and well Being, No 5- Gender Equality No 9-Industry, Innovation and infrastructure and NO 17 –Partnerships to achieve the goals among others. Kisumu County is bordered by Vihiga in the North, Siaya County in the west, Homa Bay County in the South West, Nyamira County to the South, Kericho County in the East and Nandi County in the North East. The County covers a total area of 2,660 sq. Km of which 567 sq.Km is under water. The County's population was projected at 992,647 in 2001

### **Frame and Justification**

Production of Uhai Improved Cook stove is one of the activities implemented by Uhai Lake Forum to provide opportunities for young men and women from Kisumu County and neighbouring communities. It helps in reducing pollution of the atmosphere and also reduce incidences of health conditions associated with smoke emitted from traditional all metal charcoal stoves.

This is an effort to create self employment and source of income for young men and women which is a major problem among the city dwellers. Many youths are idle and sometimes are engaged by politicians to cause conflicts within Kisumu County, communities living in Nyakach (Sondu) and Buret in Kericho. There are rampant ethnic clashes attributed to cattle rustling which has led to death of several people in the past including recent killing of parents of a prominent politician in the region.

Young men and women were mobilized and trained on how to make Uhai Improved stove as a mitigation and adaptation practice to address climate change issues in Kisumu City.

A number of trained youths are now eking a living out of making improved cook stoves, an example is Mr. Moses Owino, 29 years old, married and has 3 kids

### **Objectives of the project**

- To reduce environmental and household pollution among the households within the city of Kisumu (Municipality)
- To identify and train at least 30 women in the production and marketing of improved energy cookstove as an income generating activity
- To identify and train at least 30 youths from various sports and sensitize them on the need to get involved in some income generating activities
- To train a group of young men and women on how to make Uhai improved cook stove and marketing of the same product
- Target out of school youth of between 18 and 35 years in Kisumu City. Majority of them are unemployed and engage in causing conflicts whenever an opportunity arises. They are vulnerable for exploitation by politicians and gets involved/causing conflicts especially along the border areas of Sondu/Nyakach/Kericho and Muhoroni/Miwani areas.

### **Achievement and key indicators**

- Conducted training for the identified youths on how to make Uhai Energy Saving cook stove in Kisumu City, and Nyahera and Nyakach sub counties.
- Trained women and youths on the components comprising of measurements, metal cladding, moulds, fixing, painting and marketing.
- The youths and women were awarded certificate of attendance for those who successfully completed the course.
- Each participant was given the task to produce one complete Uhai Improved Energy Cook Stove and they showed competency as shown in the picture below.

Mr. Moses Owino started making Jikos and he produces between 200 and 500 jikos per month and earns an average of Kshs. 9,000 Per months. Since he was trained, he has produced 7807 cook stoves retailing at Kshs 1200/= per device Out of proceeds from his work he is able to cater for his family in terms of rent, school fees and health care.

After the training, he has trained 5 more artisans who are also earning a living from he same project. At least 15 women from Keyo women group in Nyahera sub urban centre are now producing complete energy devices which they are selling to the residents of Kisumu County and also export to other cities like Nairobi, Kiambu, Nakuru and many more.

- 1.Improved cook stoves save energy by at least 40% and the residents save more on charcoal that they buy from the market.
- 2.Forests are saved from destruction and issues of climate change are addressed.
- 3.Residents enjoy clean and safe cooking environments with less carbon monoxide emission
- 4.Production of improved cook stoves.
- 5.The activity is done with the mission of improving the environment by conserving trees through reduced amount of charcoal used at households
- 6.All artisans around Kisumu are trained by Uhai lake forum.
- 7.Women group members have reported improved livelihood because they are able to sell the jiko liners beyond the lake region.
- 8.Reports by GIZ indicate the improved cook stove is the best in EA in terms of value, efficiency and durability.



Youths are trained on how to make improved energy devices



Women actively participate and get involved in the activity within Kisumu Municipality, Kenya



Even the men join women and youths in making Uhai Cookstoves



Youths display their finished products



Trainees take keen interest in the required measurements



A woman carries a finished improved cookstove for use in her home to address climate change issues and also sell in the nearby market as a source of livelihood.

**Main stages of the project**

In chronological order

1. Identification of stakeholders including Kisumu Municipality
2. Training of women and youths
3. Production of energy saving improved devices Uhai
4. Promotion and Marketing
5. Data collection on the users within the city
6. Monitoring and Evaluation
7. Development of case studies

At the moment there is need to carry on with activities from No 4 to No 6. And this will be possible subject to availability of funds/Resources.

**Strengths of the project**

Strength of the project is estimated at 60%

**Lessons learnt**

- Women and youth take lead in the making and marketing of climate friendly improved energy saving devices and earn a living out of it.
- Energy saving devices are user friendly, more safe, reduces deforestation, lasts longer and uses less charcoal.
- Training event provided a forum for youths to come together and share experiences, issues and propose the way forward
- Awarding of certificates and prizes during training events encourage youth to take lead in the making of Uhai Improved Cook Stoves and also help in nurturing skills among the youth in climate change mitigation and adaptation practices
- Youths got self employed and are earning a living out of the project.
- Many young men and women are now engaged and have no time to participate in activities that may lead violence
- When people get training in new ideas, they sharpen their skills and does not allow them to be idle anymore
- The project links with SEACAP as it addresses the three pillars

**MITIGATION**

Accelerating the decarbonization of their territories

**ADAPTATION**

Strengthening capacity to adapt to unavoidable climate change impact

**ACCESS TO ENERGY**

- Allowing citizens to access secure, sustainable and affordable energy emissions (or non-emission) according to Nationally Determined Contribution
- Increase their resilience by adapting to the impacts of climate change according to Nationally Determined Contribution
- Adopt ambitious goals and actions to increase the access to secure, affordable and sustainable energy
- Translate political commitment into practical measures by developing and implementing a Sustainable Energy Access and Climate Action Plan (SEACAP).
- The SEACAP concentrate on measures aimed at reducing GHG emissions such as carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), and the final energy consumption by end users, as well as include adaptation actions in response to the impacts of Climate Change and access to sustainable energy.

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