

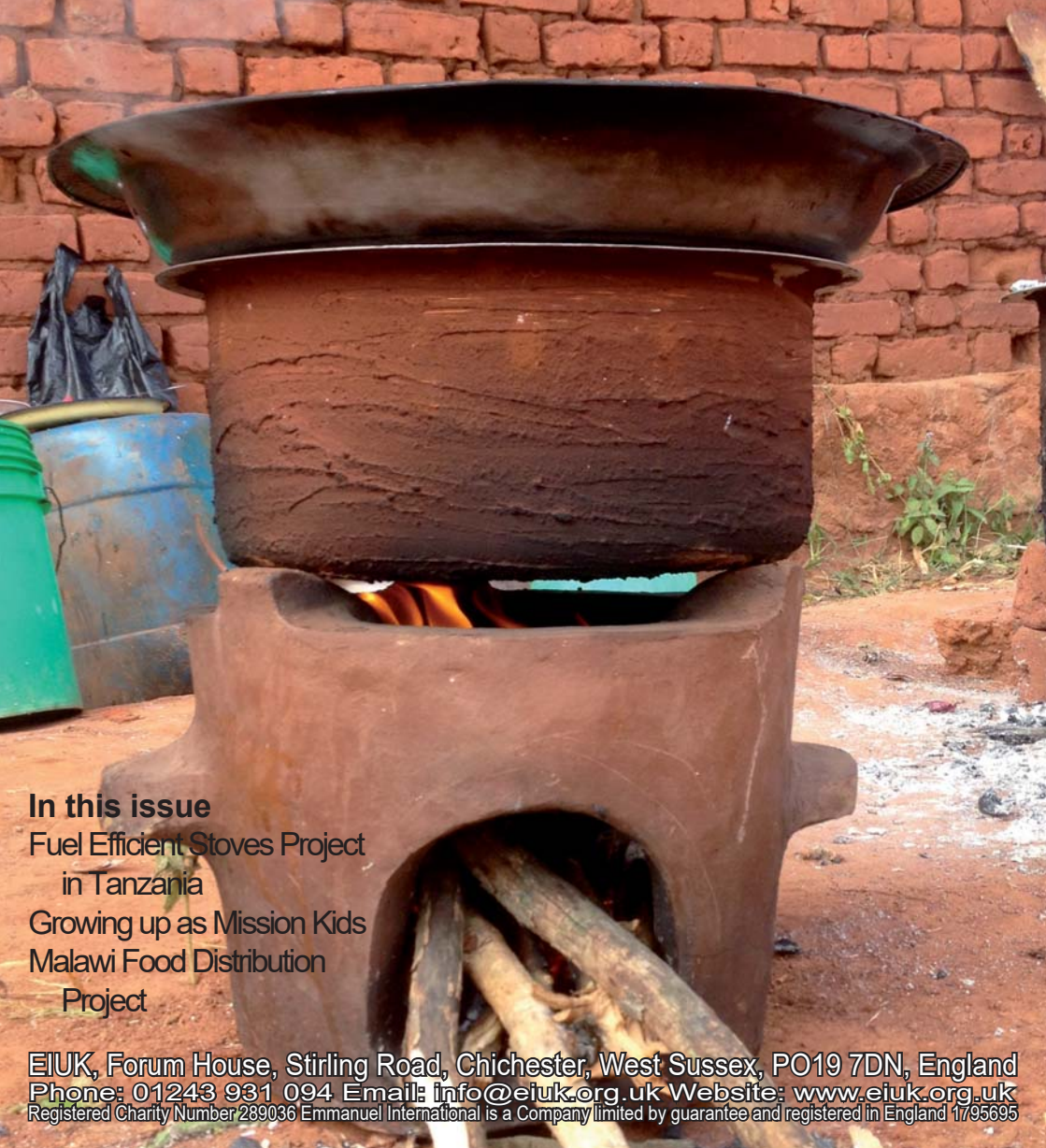


# **BushNet**

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GIVING PRACTICAL HELP - MEETING SPIRITUAL NEED

**Issue 2 of 2016**



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# Fuel Efficient Stoves



**Group members carry clay from the source at Ibumu**



**Making stoves at Mangawe**



**Preparing planting tubes for tree seedlings**

For the last three years, EIUK has received funding from the Department for International Development (DfID) to run a fuel efficient stoves project in partnership with the Anglican Diocese of Ruaha. Following a pilot in Magozi village, we set out to scale up the project and establish six stove making groups in six villages. Three years on, we have set up seven new groups in seven villages, registered them all as CBOs (community based organisations) and trained a total of 275 people how to make portable clay fuel efficient stoves. Now the improved stoves are in use in over 900 households, and on average, stove users have reduced their consumption of firewood by 19kg per week. Over the whole project area, this amounts to a total saving of over 900 tons of firewood per year! This also relates to saving time for women and girls who collect firewood. On average the time collecting firewood has reduced by 4.4 hours per week for households using the improved stove and 95% of women using the stove said that their household income had increased as a result of the time saved. The stoves have health benefits too; female users of the stoves have reported a 23% reduction in incidences of respiratory disease compared to when they used a traditional three-stone-fire.

The project has worked through stove making groups which bring together all types of people from inside and outside of the local church, young and old; educated and uneducated, men and women. The groups learn, manufacture and sell stoves together. The groups have not been without their challenges, however. Some of the groups experienced technical challenges, with stoves cracking. Other groups experienced internal conflict. Through all the challenges we have

*“...promoted the value of self-reliance...”*

Andrew Wingfield, EI Country Representative in Tanzania, gives an overview of the project.

encouraged the groups to work together to face the challenges and not give up. They have learned through their challenges and so have we.

Realizing the importance of strong leadership for these groups, we organised a seminar on leadership for the leaders for all the groups. As well as appreciating the training on leadership, conflict resolution and financial management, the delegates were really encouraged by meeting each other for the first time and sharing experiences.

Although there were unexpected challenges, there have also been unexpected positive outcomes of the project. At the leadership seminar, the group leaders took the initiative to form a fuel efficient stoves 'network' so that the groups can support and encourage one another into the future, even without support from EI. Also, one of the groups whose sales were lower than expected decided to do something to improve the economic benefits for its members. They took the initiative to set up a savings and loans scheme for group members. Now the members can take a loan from the group capital to help them with their own entrepreneurial activities.

At the end of this phase of the project, our team has been going through an evaluation process to identify strengths, weaknesses and lessons learned from the project. This process has been aided by a visit from consultants from a London based company tasked with assessing the sustainability of DfID's development projects, and a

Tanzanian expert on fuel efficient stoves who led us through another week-long evaluation exercise. The evaluators identified strengths of the project, especially that the project was able to reach

marginalised members of the community who had been excluded from interventions of other organisations and that the project promoted the value of self-reliance, rather than the culture of dependency and expectation for hand outs, which prevails in many rural communities.

We have learned that while the stoves help to reduce deforestation, more emphasis is needed on tree planting in order to actually reverse deforestation. Also, it is helpful for the stove groups to have a range of activities in addition to stove making which not only help the environment but can also provide investment or income generation to enhance the economic benefits for group members. Building on this learning, we're now planning for our new project which is named 'Imarika'. This Swahili word means "to be strengthened" and is also an acronym for "strengthening environments, livelihoods and the church". Through the new project we will be working with local churches and the existing stoves groups, mobilising the churches to understand their responsibilities to the community and to the environment and providing new training on a range of complementary interventions, including Village Savings and Loans (VSL), tree nurseries, conservation agriculture and small livestock keeping.



**Conflict resolution exercise**

## Felista Madembwe

*Felista Madembwe is secretary of the stoves making group in Lyamgungwe, she is also secretary for the fuel efficient stoves network.*

I have learned many things through the project in making stoves especially the way they save women from respiratory diseases. Through the project I am now saving my time. For example, I have reduced trips to collect fire woods because a fuel efficient stove demands just a small amount of fire wood. In addition, fuel efficient stoves are cooking fast thus saving time.

Initially when we started making stoves many people laughed at us because we were working with clay which is looked down upon. In facing this challenge, we had to educate people that this is something useful for the community though they see it as work of low status. Now, as time goes on, people have learned a lot and some of them are even apologizing for what they said and some are proceeding to join the group.

We have now planted tree seeds in a nursery. We expect they will germinate soon and we are filling soil in planting tubes. Up to this point we have 10,000 planting tubes filled with soil. We are planning to prepare 20,000 planting tubes for the trees planted in the nursery. Group members will individually plant trees in their farms; each group member will have 500 trees. Apart from that, the village government has decided to offer a farm of almost 10 hectares to the group where we will also plant trees as a group.



## Henro Lugenge



*Henro Lugenge is chairperson of the 'Eden' fuel efficient stove group in Ibumu village*

Two years ago our Pastor informed us that there was a project to be initiated and then later he invited EI to visit us in our village. They visited the church and then they visited the village government and introduced the project. Then we started the task of collecting clay and making stoves.

I have learned various things in the project. These include making stoves, entrepreneurship and working with different types of people in the group. Having different types of people helped me to exchange ideas and experiences from other people. Although we have had challenges as a group as well. Some of the group members were discouraged to continue with our project activities. To solve this problem we visited and encouraged them that we have to continue working together because we ourselves are the beneficiaries of the project.

## Noah Mgwabu

*Noah Mgwabu is the chairperson of the 'Samaria' stoves group in Ikengeza and a founder member of the fuel efficient stoves network.*



Through the fuel efficient stoves project, we have been growing day to day. It is now three years since the project was initiated. We reached the point of forming a network of communication because our groups are based in different locations. Some of the fuel efficient stove groups are found in Kilolo District while others are found in Iringa Rural District. Therefore we decided to form a network which will be connecting us through meetings with group leaders from all the groups. The aim of forming this network was to identify markets, demands and to help spread the message about fuel efficient stoves. Through this network there is communication flowing through groups within these two districts, but what is connecting us all is the project.

It has been helpful to get to know each other, to exchange experiences, understanding where there are markets for stoves and, where there is less of a market, deciding what we should do. I have understood that the network is very useful for us because, for example, if we have raw materials in a certain location and other locations don't have, we are ready to transport them from the location where they are available and use where they lack raw materials. Therefore we have increased capability to expand trade.

In the village where I am living, in Ikengeza, people have been encouraged by the project. Beforehand people didn't know anything about the project but when they realized and learned about fuel efficient stoves, we started getting the users and they started purchasing stoves. Through this, people have realized it's value and how it is relating to the environment, producing little smoke so giving a health advantage as well. We have provided an appropriate item in the right place.

Thanks to Emmanuel International and the Diocese of Ruaha. Through this project we determined for ourselves who we are and we have acquired skills because before the project we didn't know how to make stoves. Through the project we have improved our lives in different aspects such as in health and economy. The money we get from selling stoves can be used to initiate other businesses, such as buying and selling eggs. The project has played a big role in reducing poverty.

## How much do YOU know about Tanzania?



1. What is the name of Tanzania's highest mountain?
2. What is the biggest game park/reserve?
3. What is the capital city of Tanzania?
4. What language do we mainly speak in Tanzania?
5. How many languages are spoken in Tanzania?
6. Who was Tanzania's first president?
7. What is the name of the political party in charge of Tanzania now?
8. What is the name of the ocean Tanzania is situated right next to?
9. Which is the deepest lake in Tanzania?
10. What is the largest lake in Tanzania?

All Christians, young and old, wherever they live, can be missionaries. A missionary is someone who shares Jesus and the Bible with others, lives as a light and helps people practically and spiritually.

For us, being *overseas* missionaries (in a country different to where we were born) is fun and exciting! But it can also be a little sad or hard at times and it can even be pretty normal too.

We see amazing places like the Serengeti, speak different languages (Swahili and tribal languages) and have different experiences. We have adventures that might scare people - such as accidentally standing on a crocodile's head in the river and just getting off in time, or finding a spitting cobra living in our garden. We eat food that is really different, like green slime with sour milk, hairy goats and cow intestine soup.

As well as being adventurous, it can be a little hard at times. We often miss our family and friends in England and Canada. Amisadai misses Taste Youth and corner yogurts and Louisa misses English shops and McDonalds. But then, when we come back to England, we really miss our friends and life in Tanzania and we feel so behind because everyone is talking about new things that just came out, and we have NO clue what they are talking about. Tanzania is home to us, and we feel normal here!

In many ways normal life for us isn't so different! We get up at 6:20am and leave for school at 7:15am. School starts at 7:55am. We go to an international school (taught in English). We really like it there, and it isn't *that* different to UK schools. Amisadai's favourite subjects are PE, History and Drama and Louisa's favourites are Art and Science. We have loads of monkeys at our school, and they are a nuisance! They tip over the bins, steal lunches and break into students' backpacks. Once a friend walked into the

1. Mount Kilimanjaro
2. Selous Game Reserve
3. Dodoma
4. Swahili
5. 126
6. Julius Nyerere
7. Chama Cha Mapinduzi
8. Indian Ocean
9. Lake Tanganyika
10. Lake Victoria

# Growing up as mission kids

*Amisadai (12) and Louisa (10) Monger moved with their parents to Tanzania, Africa when they were 6 and 4 years old. They live in the Mwanza region, near Lake Victoria. Here they tell us what it is like growing up as overseas missionaries...*

You can find out more about Amisadai and Louisa's Adventures in Africa on their blog [www.mongergirls.blogspot.com](http://www.mongergirls.blogspot.com)

bathroom and found a monkey sitting on the toilet! After school, sometimes we have swimming or other clubs, or we go home and do homework and music practise. We like to do normal things like riding our bikes, going for runs, climbing trees, listening to music, sketching and emailing friends.

## How are we as kids involved in "Mission?"

Sometimes people think only adults can be missionaries. But we all can. Most of our time is at school now, and many of our friends at school are Muslims, so we often talk to them about Jesus and what it means to be a Christian. When we go to villages, the main thing is to be with people. They love to see our faces and we love to help out! When we were doing the stoves project, we would sit with the groups and make miniature versions of clay stoves! We can sit and make beads or mats with mamas and play games with kids. When

mum and dad go to teach about nutrition or SODIS (a way of getting clean water to drink using sunlight) or keeping bees, we can talk too and act out dramas to help deliver the message. Louisa loves to read the Swahili Bible and lead the singing. And we get to see that God is always at work! God has always been there for us, to help and encourage us, getting us out of danger and healing us from sicknesses such as malaria and amoebiasis. Once when we got lost in a baobab forest with a friend, after wandering round in circles and making our parents rather anxious, He brought us all back to the path. We have seen God heal people who have evil spirits and He has given Louisa the words to pray for people. He always has a special job for all of us to do!

How have you seen God at work around you?



Helping out at beekeeping training



Praying with a village stoves group



# El Malawi Relief 2016-2017

## 6 month food distribution programme



*“For the period from July 2016 to March 2017, Malawi faces a hazard-related food security and nutrition emergency coming on top of the devastating floods in 2015. Responding to the situation, the President of Malawi declared a State of National Disaster on 12 April 2016 and appealed for humanitarian relief assistance from the international community and the private sector.”*

### Republic of Malawi 2016/2017 Food Insecurity Response Plan

In the Government’s Response Plan, the whole of Machinga and Mangochi Districts will be served through El Malawi:

**Machinga:** 75,405 families (414,728 individuals)

**Mangochi:** 67,000 families (368,500 individuals)

**Total to be served:** 142,405 families (an anticipated 783,228 individuals)

Each family will receive a “Food Basket” each month from October 2016 till March 2017:

- A 50 kg bag of either sorghum, maize or rice (this will vary according to what is received from the donor community)
- 10 kg pulses (dried beans)
- 2 litres oil
- 6 kg CSB (corn soya blend) for a family with a pregnant or lactating woman, or children under the age of 2 years

Food will be given to all the targeted households in Machinga and to those in 3

Traditional Authorities (TAs) in Mangochi. Two TAs in Mangochi will be receiving the cash equivalent of the above “Food Basket” as it is anticipated that there will be food available for purchase in those TAs. Currently a 50 kg bag of maize is worth 15,000 Malawian Kwacha (£16).

There are 45 Food Distribution Points around Machinga and 30 around Mangochi, which means there will be 2-3 distributions taking place every day for the 6 months. We foresee that 5000 metric tons of food will be moved each month for Machinga and 2500 metric tons for Mangochi.

There will be 134 staff members for distribution and 86 for maintaining the warehouse. The warehouse is in Machinga District. Normally, World Food Programme does all the warehousing but given the vast relief needed this year, they asked us to warehouse the food for our 2 districts.

### Please pray for:

- Staff of integrity to work alongside Martin.
- Join us giving thanks for volunteers coming to help Martin, one from the UK and one from Canada.
- Safety on the roads. There is the possibility of much rain this coming year so pray for access to distant places.