

Honduran Association for Development (AHDESA)

Improved cooking systems for tortilla-makers in Cholutecas City, Honduras

AHDESA, the Honduran Association for Development, has executed more than 20 projects with improved/clean cook stoves in Honduras—building more than 11,000 improved stoves in the country which still remain in operation.

Female tortilla cookers in Choluteca City live in the periphery of the city and sell tortillas in that area. They estimate that they spend about 60% of their production costs in the purchase of fire wood and about 25% to 35% in the purchase of corn and water. In addition to the expense fuel, they are exposed to emissions generated during cooking which causes lung problems. In order to help to resolve some of these issues, AHDESA will implement cleaner/improved cook stoves which can reduce fuel use by 70%; potentially increasing incomes by 30%.



Improved stoves will be constructed in about 147 homes in the area (affecting 750 people). Before the stoves are installed, AHDESA will work with a smaller pilot group of 10 to 20 women to design a model that works best for the tasks and test those models. Once the models have been tested, the initial group can discuss the benefits of their stoves with colleagues. Additionally, AHDESA will advertise this project by radio and television and have public trainings in local markets to showcase the benefits of improved stoves.

To afford the stoves, AHDESA will provide the beneficiaries up to 70% of the cost so they need to pay 30%. Additionally, the beneficiaries have to provide part of the materials needed for the construction of the improved stoves (they provide the less expensive materials and the project provides the more expensive materials). The women also help with the construction of the stove so they can perform basic maintenance and repairs if needed.

Initial beneficiaries will be chosen according to the following criteria:

1. Single mothers
2. Large families
3. Low income
4. Families that experience health issues due to current cooking methods.

Once the stoves have been installed, AHDESA will make periodic visits to ensure everything is in working order.

