



Energiz Project Report

BY
LIDA Network

A Just Energy Transition Project by LIDA Network, Powering Rural Community Women in Clean Cooking Solutions and Green Jobs Creation



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ENERGIZ, is a Just Energy Transition Project focused on Clean Cooking advocacy and training, Solar Technology adoption, and installation, Wind Energy and Geothermal technology, and Solar Equipment Manufacturing. The project seeks to create 100,000 green jobs across Africa by addressing environmental challenges while promoting socio-economic empowerment, with a strong focus on women. The project has so far trained and facilitated the employment of 120 women between 18 and 45 years after a rigorous interview and selection process. This project aligns with global efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change through sustainable innovations and local-level capacity building as the world transitions to cleaner energy sources. According to the World Bank, 2.6 billion people globally lack access to clean cooking. Consequently, they rely on open-fire cookstoves that produce significant smoke, leading to Household Air Pollution (HAP) exposure. The Energiz project successfully achieved SDG 7, SDG 3, SDG 5, SDG 8, and SDG 13.

The project successfully trained 120 women on producing clean cookstoves and pellets (an eco-friendly fuel) and substitute for firewood, and provided them with job placements. The project was executed using training sessions, assignments, question-and-answer sessions, and hands-on practical sessions.





PROJECT OBJECTIVES

1. To promote the adoption of clean cooking solutions to reduce carbon emissions, firewood use, and deforestation.
2. To equip women with technical knowledge in producing clean cookstoves and gain entrepreneurial skills.
3. To provide stipends to project beneficiaries.
4. To foster partnerships for the achievement of the sustainable development goals.
5. To encourage beneficiaries to become advocates of clean cookstoves within their communities, increasing awareness and adoption.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

According to the World Bank, 2.6 billion people globally lack access to clean cooking. Of this figure, 1.2 billion people lack access to clean cooking facilities in Africa. World Health Organisation estimates that smoke from the kitchen leads to 93,300 deaths annually in Nigeria alone.

Despite this troubling figure, over 70% of households still depend on firewood for cooking, a choice driven by necessity but fraught with consequences. This challenge impacts 1.2 billion people across Africa and has led to millions of premature deaths annually.

Currently, 83 percent of people in Sub-Saharan Africa rely on traditional biomass fuels, leading to severe health, environmental, and economic repercussions and in some cases, even deaths. The reliance on polluting fuels according to the African Development Bank costs approximately \$791.4 billion annually, with health-related impacts accounting for \$526.3 billion.





PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

The ENERGIZ project trained 120 women from diverse backgrounds, and levels of education on the production of clean cookstoves and pellets, to reduce reliance on traditional cooking methods that contribute to deforestation and greenhouse gas emissions while providing financial incentives to participants.

Throughout the project, the beneficiaries were trained on

1. Health, Safety and Environment
2. Clean Cook Stove Production
3. Biomass Pellet Production and Packaging
4. Energy Efficiency and Electricity Generation
5. Sales and Marketing
6. Starting and managing a business





PROJECT IMPACT

The project made a significant impact by advancing clean cooking through various initiatives, including liner production, clean cookstove fabrication, and pellet production. Here are the impacts of the project:

1. Training on liner production, boring, coupling, and paint spraying :

The beneficiaries learnt how to produce liners producing a total of 1000 liners, bored and coupled about 3000 liners.





2. Broad understanding of various clean cookstove models and fabrication of C200 Stoves:

The women learned about the features of the different clean cookstoves and their usage. Some of the clean cookstoves includes

- **U series:** Models include U100, U200, U300 and U100x
- **X series:** Models include X100, X200 and X300. It is the most advanced and efficient household cookstove with side feeding based on Top-Lit Updraft technology designed for pellet use only with built-in 4,000mAh Lithium-ion battery, output 12V and 5V offering better cooking flames and electricity to charge phones and light bulbs.
- **C series:** This is the most in-demand and efficient stove in the market today which uses black pellets with a minimum of 60% saving for the user and higher thermal efficiency. The C series comes in 3 categories, the C100 (the smallest), the C200 (the medium size) and the C300
- **T series:** This is made up of both the advanced efficient household cookstove and the efficient commercial cookstove version. The T series comes in the T100, T200, T300, T400, T500 and T600.
- **G300 (Gina):** The smallest-sized Top-lit Force Draft clean stove specially designed for bio-pellets.

Beneficiaries of the **ENERGIZ** project focused on the production of the C200 stoves which were mainly in demand and affordable. They also served as advocates of the use of clean cookstoves in their communities, going ahead to sell these stoves to clients and learning entrepreneurial skills such as baking and grilling with the stoves as a stream of income.



3. Pellet Production and Packaging

Beneficiaries of the Energiz project were made to produce the black pellet and learn about the white pellet.

- **White Pellet:** White pellets are made from sawdust, cassava flour and clay. They are actually brown in color but called white pellets to differentiate them from the black pellets.
- **Black Pellet:** These are made just like the white pellets but are carbonized. The women were taught how to produce, package and seal over 2000 pellet bags.
- **Sieving of sawdust:** The project beneficiaries sieved over 10,000kg of sawdust (by-product of wood) meant for disposal, but collected from carpentry sites, in preparation for pellet production.





MONITORING AND EVALUATION

In total, 400 intending beneficiaries indicated interest in being part of the Energiz project, 120 of them scaled the interview phase and were admitted into the program. Over 8 different brands of clean stoves and 1,000 kilograms of pellets were produced during the lifespan of the project. Over 30 stoves were sold by the beneficiaries and about 50 kg of pellets were sold within their communities, leading to acceptance and adoption of the stoves. Some beneficiaries also adopted the use of the clean cookstoves in their homes.

The monthly allowance helped the project beneficiaries to meet various financial needs such as feeding for their family, payment of children's school fees, investment in building materials such as cement and blocks for housing projects, establishment of small businesses and payment of debts, etc.





KEY ACHEIVEMENTS

- ➔ 120 women successfully completed the training and job placement on clean cooking adoption for rural community women
- ➔ The training enhanced the entrepreneurial skills of the beneficiaries, as the women learnt new economic skills such as baking with the stoves and grilling.
- ➔ Beneficiaries learned to manufacture clean cookstoves, couple the stoves and spray paint, ready-for-sale.
- ➔ Some of the women adopted the use of clean cookstoves, producing the pellets in their homes, leading to a reduction in smoke-related health issues and a decrease in fuel consumption (kerosene, gas, and firewood).
- ➔ The beneficiaries contributed to raising awareness about the effects of climate change and the importance of sustainable energy solutions within their communities.
- ➔ The project enhanced the confidence of women, made them more outspoken and relate freely with other women.
- ➔ The project led to the creation of business ideas which the women found beneficial and as a new stream of income.
- ➔ The program has greatly reduced the medical risks of hypertension, as the beneficiaries.
- ➔ **The project provided an opportunity for financial inclusion for all the beneficiaries who before the program had no bank account. A total of 44 accounts were opened.**





CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

#	Challenge	Solution
1.	Language and literacy barriers	We got interpreters for those who didn't understand English to interpret the lessons.
2.	Communication limitations	Not all of the beneficiaries are using smartphones, so information shared on the WhatsApp group created for easy dissemination of information were shared with other beneficiaries through their batch leaders and word of mouth by other project beneficiaries in their batch (groups).
3.	Educational Barrier:	The beneficiaries had varying levels of education, while some had never had any form of academic exposure before the training. The project enabled the unschooled among them the ability to learn, work and also be tested through the final program exams conducted and bi-weekly tests
4.	Financial Inclusion:	About half of the women had previously not had bank accounts. We leveraged the program as an avenue to bank the unbanked. For all who were unbanked, we worked closely with a local bank to ensure the women had functional bank accounts.
5.	Cultural Differences	Some of the women had previously not experienced our rich cultural diversity. Their lives were confined to their homes and children. The program helped them change their perspectives about the various tribes and cultures in Nigeria and the beauty of it.



TESTIMONIALS

We really got more than what we wanted honestly. Since I've been in Kuje here, I didn't know that there is anywhere like this, I didn't even know there is something called smokeless stove, when I heard of it I was like, is there anything like a smokeless stove? Until I got to this factory, I did not only see 1 type but a variety of stoves that you can use that will not make your stove black, you will not even know that you cooked and it is very fast. I am so happy to be part of this training honestly, it has really helped many of us, even the women they are so wonderful, may God continue to take you to greater heights in Jesus Name.

Rebecca O.

TESTIMONIALS

First of all, I want to thank the organizers of this ENERGIZE program, and LIDA Network for this initiative, it has been a very interesting one for the past 6 months. We have learnt new things, how you can turn waste (sawdust) into what we can use to produce not only energy for cooking but also energy to turn into electricity. The program has helped women socially, we have been able to have women from different tribes, cultures and religions, we have been able to interact and know more about each other. Financially, yes it has really helped in various ways in our individual needs. Like for me the extra income was able to help in meeting my children's needs going back to school.

Titilayo I.



CONCLUSION

The ENERGIZE project has become a successful model for integrating environmental sustainability with social and economic empowerment. It has empowered women with various skills for economic liberation. With lessons learned and recommendations adopted, future projects can achieve greater scalability and impact.





ABOUT LIDA NETWORK

LIDA Network is a dynamic multimedia and innovation platform that specialises in development communication across Africa. Founded with a mission to promote socio-economic development, advance energy access in underserved regions, and build the capacity of journalists, LIDA Network is committed to creating impactful content that addresses critical development issues. We focus on producing high-quality multimedia content that amplifies the voices of marginalised communities, highlights sustainable energy practices, and engages audiences through innovative storytelling.

As a leading entity in development communication, we work closely with local, national, and international media stakeholders to ensure the effective dissemination of important narratives on Africa's progress and challenges. Through our training programs and partnerships, LIDA Network plays a pivotal role in empowering journalists and organisations to report accurately and responsibly on key issues.

OUR VISION

To be the premier platform driving sustainable development, energy access, and media empowerment across Africa by producing innovative multimedia content that inspires change and fosters a deeper understanding of socio-economic challenges.

OUR MISSION

LIDA Network is dedicated to producing compelling, high-quality multimedia content that addresses Africa's socio-economic challenges, promotes energy penetration in underserved communities, and empowers journalists with the skills necessary to tackle development-related issues. We aim to connect the world with Africa's stories, inspiring action and change through well-crafted communication.



CORE EXPERTISE AND SERVICES




- 1. Media Strategy Development:** At LIDA Network, we understand that communication is key to successful development. We specialise in crafting customised media strategies tailored to specific developmental causes and campaigns. Whether for a nonprofit organisation, a government initiative, or a corporate social responsibility project, our strategies ensure maximum reach and impact, utilising both traditional and digital media platforms. Our approach is impact-driven, helping clients meet their communication objectives while advancing their developmental goals.
- 2. Multimedia Content Creation and Production:** We pride ourselves on our ability to produce diverse multimedia content that resonates with audiences. Our team is skilled in:
 - **Video Production:** We produce documentaries, short films, news reports, and feature videos that explore development issues. Our videos bring these topics to life, offering both visual and emotional engagement.
 - **Podcasts:** We create thought-provoking podcasts that delve into complex issues of socio-economic development, climate change, and energy, providing in-depth discussions and expert opinions on topics that matter to Africa and the world.
 - **Photography:** Our photographers capture striking visuals that reflect the essence of development in Africa—showing both the challenges and progress of communities as they navigate the path to sustainability and growth.
 - **Social Media Storytelling:** Our social media team specialises in creating captivating narratives that leverage the power of digital platforms. We help organisations engage with a broader audience and raise awareness about pressing developmental issues through interactive posts, infographics, and real-time updates.
- 3. Press Releases, Feature Stories, and Media Advisories:** LIDA Network is experienced in crafting and disseminating press releases, feature stories, and media advisories that convey important messages to the public. Whether promoting a new initiative, highlighting key milestones, or addressing urgent concerns, our content is crafted to capture media attention and ensure the right audiences are reached.



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- 4. Relationship Management with Media Outlets:** We recognize the importance of strong media relationships in amplifying developmental messages. LIDA Network has established lasting connections with various media outlets and journalists, spanning local, national, regional, and international platforms. These relationships are pivotal in ensuring that the stories we help tell reach the right audiences—whether it's through mainstream media or niche publications. Our media relations efforts also extend to journalists, influencers, and thought leaders who play a crucial role in driving conversations about Africa's development.
 - 5. Capacity Building and Training for Journalists:** Our capacity-building programs are designed to equip journalists with the necessary skills to cover complex topics such as climate change, sustainable development, and energy penetration, with a focus on accuracy, objectivity, and impactful storytelling.
 - 6. Community Development Programs:** LIDA Network is a dynamic digital media and innovation platform dedicated to fostering community-driven solutions to Nigeria's socio-economic challenges. With a focus on promoting economic and social justice, LIDA Network designs and implements grassroots development programs that empower underserved communities. The organization addresses critical issues such as clean energy access, rural women's health, and sustainable livelihoods by leveraging innovative approaches like clean cook stove initiatives and skill development training.

OUR IMPACT

LIDA Network has made a significant impact in promoting sustainable development and energy access across Africa. Through our media campaigns, training programs, and strategic partnerships, we have contributed to raising awareness about vital issues affecting the continent, such as the need for energy in underserved communities and the importance of climate resilience. By training journalists, we are fostering a generation of informed media practitioners who can accurately cover and advocate for issues of public interest.



We have also provided platforms for marginalised communities to share their stories, giving them a voice in public discourse. Our multimedia content has reached millions of viewers, listeners, and readers, making a tangible difference in how development issues are perceived and acted upon.




GLOBAL REACH AND PARTNERSHIPS

LIDA Network's influence extends beyond Africa. Our work has attracted international attention and partnership opportunities with media outlets, NGOs, development agencies, and global institutions. Through these collaborations, we have amplified Africa's developmental voice on the world stage and contributed to global discussions on sustainability, poverty alleviation, and energy access.

Our partnerships with international media platforms have helped showcase the challenges and solutions emerging from Africa, bringing the continent's stories to a broader, global audience.


KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

-  **300+ Media Practitioners Trained:** LIDA Network has trained over 300 early and mid-career journalists in more than seven African countries, strengthening media reporting and communication strategies.
-  **Impactful Multimedia Campaigns:** Our content has reached millions across Africa, influencing public opinion on critical issues such as climate change, energy access, and economic development.
-  **Partnerships with Leading Organisations:** LIDA Network collaborates with international organisations, NGOs, and government bodies to drive sustainable change across the continent.





WHY CHOOSE LIDA NETWORK?

-  **Innovative Approach:** We are at the forefront of using multimedia tools and digital platforms to drive development communication.
-  **Expertise in Africa's Challenges:** Our deep understanding of Africa's socio-economic and energy landscape allows us to provide insightful, relevant, and impactful content.
-  **Commitment to Empowerment:** We are dedicated to building capacity among local journalists and giving marginalised communities the resources they need to thrive.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Website: www.lidanetwork.org

Email: admin@lidanetwork.org

Phone: +234 703 944 4032

Social Media:

- **Facebook:** @LidaNetwork
- **Twitter:** @lida_network
- **LinkedIn:** LidaNetwork
- **Youtube:** LIDA Network
- **Instagram:** @lidanetwork





Get in Touch

+2347039444032

admin@lidanetwork.org

www.lidanetwork.org

@lidanetwork

@LIDAnetwork

@LIDA_network

LIDA Network

LIDA Network

