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PATH: Research on Acquisition and Correct Use of Improved Cookstoves in Uganda

Research Overview

PATH, the Seattle-based Program for Appropriate Technology in Health, was awarded funds in August 2011 to conduct research on integrating behavior change communication (BCC) interventions into the World Bank-funded Biomass Energy Initiative for Africa (BEIA) project in Uganda. PATH will work with BEIA, which is helping stove programs scale up their operations and achieve economic viability, to establish local production and dissemination of an efficient, low-emission, relatively low-cost TopLit UpDraft (TLUD) gasifier stove. They will evaluate BCC activities that can improve the acquisition and use of these stoves. Partners on the project include the Berkeley Air Monitoring Group (BA), the Center for Research in Energy and Energy Conservation (CREEC), and the Joint Energy and Environment Programme (JEEP).

Research Design

Baseline assessments will measure fuel consumption, indoor air quality, and stove usage. Formative research on current attitudes and practices related to cookstoves will be collected with key informant interviews and focus group discussions to inform the behavior change intervention.

Interventions will include:

- **Direct-sales** – Primarily female community agents will encourage stove purchase by educating community members on the benefits of the TLUD stove.
- **Demonstrations** – Early adopters of the TLUD stoves will perform cooking demonstrations at local markets to demonstrate stove attributes.
- **Integration with Village-Level Household Health Visits** – Village Health Teams will be trained to integrate IAP and improved cookstove information into their routine home visits.



Woman cooking with improved cookstove. *Photo credit: CREEC.*

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Translating Research into Action, TRAction, is funded by United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under cooperative agreement number GHS-A-00-09-00015-00. The project team includes prime recipient, University Research Co., LLC (URC), Harvard University School of Public Health (HSPH), and sub-recipient research organizations. The PATH sub-award is funded under Contract No. FY11-G07-6990 beginning September 1, 2011. The USAID contacts for this research are Neal Brandes, MPH, and Esther Lwanga, MPH.

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- Other BCC activities, identified through the formative research, may include sensitizing leaders, counseling, visiting support groups, giving health talks, engaging male leaders, etc.

The program will be analyzed by comparing data on stove usage, product uptake, indoor air quality, energy efficiency, and consumer responses from the different intervention and control groups in select Kampala-area villages in Uganda.

Data Collection

Project data will be collected using monitoring forms, observation checklists, household surveys, Stove Use Monitoring Systems (to track stove use with temperature sensors), kitchen performance tests (to assess energy efficiency), real-time data loggers (to measure particulate matter and carbon monoxide concentrations), and cost assessments.

Scale-up

Depending on the results, PATH will work with stakeholders to facilitate one of three scale-up approaches:

- Form a cooperative society, including the sales team and product suppliers, and nominate coordinators;
- Engage an established social marketing organization in Uganda (i.e. Living Goods) to work with the sales people and suppliers; or
- Conduct a success or failure analysis and identify lessons learned.

The Principal Investigator for this research is Emmanuel Mugisha, PhD, PATH Uganda Country Manager.

TRAction Project Overview

The Translating Research into Action (TRAction) Project, funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), funds studies to develop, test, and compare approaches to more effectively deliver health interventions, increase utilization, achieve coverage, and scale-up evidence-based interventions for priority health problems. Through implementation research, the TRAction Project addresses “know-do” gaps, or delays between discovery of effective ways to combat the causes of poor health and the application of these proven interventions on a wide scale. TRAction research aims to close these “know-do” gaps so that each country’s Millennium Development Health Goals can be met in the targeted timeframes. TRAction emphasizes local ownership and partnerships in order to scale up equitable and sustainable efforts to “do what works.”

For more information on the TRAction Project:

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