



Public-Private Alliance Foundation

Period covered by this Communication on Engagement

From: January 2016

To: December 2017

Part II. Description of Actions

The Public-Private Alliance Foundation (PPAF), a non-profit recognized as a 501(c)3 organization in the USA, had its beginnings as an initiative of the United Nations Economic and Social Council. The creation of the UN Global Compact and its list of Ten Principles were part of the inspiration for this. The ambassadors to the UN from Madagascar, the Dominican Republic and Haiti gave pioneering support. PPAF has conducted work in each of those countries, with a focus on Haiti since the 2010 earthquake.

The poverty – respiratory disease – deforestation trap of the great dependence of Haitian families on charcoal for the daily cooking is a special concern. To address the problem and help to bring results PPAF collaborates with several Haitian and USA-based organizations. The work focuses on research & development of clean cookstoves and fuels, and organization of seminars and other advocacy at the UN and related sites. In its activities PPAF emphasizes its linkages to the UN, notably the Sustainable Development Goals and the Principles of the UN Global Compact.

The clean cooking options PPAF and companion organizations investigate and promote are solar ovens (the fuel is sunshine), biodigesters for biogas cooking (from kitchen and agricultural residues) and ethanol, that is to say high-proof alcohol (from Haitian sugarcane). The collaborators have included an American solar oven company, several non-profits that aim to create healthier lives for girls and women and to promote female-owned small business, an international organization devoted to solar cooking, another devoted to biogas for cooking, a Haitian company that makes improved cookstoves, several Haitian small-scale alcohol producers, a USA-based tropical agriculture demonstration/training center, and a Haitian university.

This work is multi-sectoral. Renewable energy, environment, health and empowerment of women and girls are main themes. PPAF networks within the UN community and with business, government, academia and others to stimulate entrepreneurship with an eye to corporate social responsibility. PPAF is associated with the UN Department of Public Information, has consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council, is a partner in the Global Alliance for Clean Cook Stoves, is a member of the Global Gender and Climate Alliance, and is associated with Solar Cookers International.

PPAF project work during 2016-2017 moved beyond co-design and consumer-testing of a low-cost ethanol stove jointly with a Haitian cookstove company. PPAF has since worked with the owners of three small-scale distilleries who wished to improve their capabilities and profitability, with an aim to sell high-proof alcohol as cooking fuel. Regarding biogas, PPAF has built up collaboration with a non-profit that promotes and helps install low-cost biodigesters that produce biogas cooking fuel plus fertilizer from the effluent. Important to this was editing/creation of training videos in English and Creole from supplied materials. Regarding solar,

PPAF is collaborating with a woman-owned, USA-based social enterprise that promotes and sells solar ovens, technical experts in solar cooking, a Haitian organization that is integrating income-generating activities from solar ovens into the programs of its “my space” clubs for adolescent girls, and a Haitian and USA-based non-profit that is promoting solar and biogas cooking at several sites for home and small-scale commercial applications.

PPAF has led the creation of a consortium among these organizations for activities and grant proposals and emphasizes this network in its crowdfunding campaigns – most recently through GlobalGiving - to support monitoring, facilitation and advocacy.

As concerns seminars and advocacy, PPAF senior fellows organized in June 2016 a session at the UN featuring scientists and policy advocates on several correlations between health and environment, including among these the work of PPAF itself. In the same month PPAF began participation the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves planning for design of a national clean cooking program in Haiti. Work began in Washington, DC and developed from this in Haiti. PPAF brought into the mix a former ambassador of Haiti to the USA who has established a non-profit to combat the deforestation from charcoal production, and the Dominican-based co-director/producer of a prize-winning documentary on the ruinous charcoal trade from the Dominican Republic to Haiti.

In March 2017 the PPAF Executive Director participated in the stakeholders meeting organized in Haiti by the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves to discuss its Preliminary Action Plan for the Transformation of the Cookstoves and Fuels Market in Haiti. Covered were the current status of the cookstoves and fuel market, interventions to foster an enabling environment, steps to strengthen supply and enhance demand for clean cookstoves and fuel, and projected short and long term impacts. PPAF and colleagues brought to the meeting emphasis on completely non-polluting fuels (solar, biogas and ethanol), beyond improved wood or charcoal stoves, and the importance of issues concerning adolescent girls.

Also in that month PPAF and the UN Association of the USA - Southern NY State Division co-sponsored a seminar as part of the 61st Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women. The event, "Girls, Women, Clean Energy and Entrepreneurship, in Haiti and Elsewhere," brought together speakers from the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves, the Population Council, the Haitian hometown organization KDCK, and HEART in Haiti, which is an elementary school there with an environmental focus. Meeting participants included several members of the Haitian community in New York.

In May 2017 the PPAF Executive Director spoke at a UN high-level event on Public-Private Partnerships attended by some 400 persons. The presentation focused on the principles and activities guiding PPAF's work, especially that in Haiti.

In several important meetings thereafter PPAF was able to bring to the UN attendees to the High-level Political Forum of the Economic and Social Council and to the Intergenerational Dialogues on the Sustainable Development Goals. PPAF arranged for a colleague from Solar Cookers International to speak at a high-level global meeting organized at the UN by the World Organization of Governance and Competitiveness. Associates of PPAF convened and spoke in a webinar on solar cooker performance evaluation. PPAF was represented and advanced its network at a seminar of the Population Council on data concerning education for girls. The matter is very important in relation to school enrollment, prevention of early pregnancy and marriage, and promotion of healthy and productive lives.

Part III. Measurement of outcomes

The outcomes from PPAF's efforts cannot be precise but are significant. The project work in the past biennium is notable for bringing together into a consortium and helping to strengthen seven organizations, each with its own network, toward the common purpose of implementing and advocating clean cookstoves in Haiti. At a level of research and development, the numbers of solar ovens and biodigesters made available have not yet been many, but this has led to initiatives as of January 2018 that may have sizeable consequences.

PPAF seminars and advocacy has reached those in the room – from dozens to hundreds – but then has reached listeners and readers ranging from UN WebTV, to webinar attendees, to the PPAF FaceBook page, and to the more than 2,000 on the list for the PPAF electronic newsletter. These vehicles, plus regularly engaging, training and promoting student interns, create outreach with implications that continue beyond miles and years.

PPAF looks forward to further innovations it can undertake, and to the continued growth of practical and policy influence by the UN Global Compact.