



Public-Private Alliance Foundation

Solar Ovens for Girls' Entrepreneurship in Haiti

Six organizations are collaborating in support of work by the Haiti Adolescent Girls' Network (HAGN) to stimulate entrepreneurship through solar ovens in "My Space" Girls Clubs in Carrefour, Haiti. A key element is provision of an initial 100 Solavore solar ovens and related training, monitoring and stove performance evaluation. The overall program aims to help these marginalized girls to stay in school, develop their capabilities and avoid actions leading to a dismal future.

The Haiti Adolescent Girls Network (HAGN), established after the devastating earthquake of 2010, focuses on girls - among the most vulnerable and least attended population groups in disaster recovery and development priorities. HAGN has created a program of "My Space" clubs for girls and young women, ages 10 to 24, to help them stay in school, and avoid early marriage, early pregnancy uncertain earnings and dismal futures. The clubs enable the girls to develop relationships, options and leadership; to find peer group and trusted adult support; to stimulate entrepreneurship and increase their economic capabilities; and to become agents of change in their communities.

HAGN already has over 1,400 "My Space" club members in Haiti and is expanding. In support of the entrepreneurship component of its program our consortium (see Annex A) is introducing Solavore solar ovens in the 18 to 24 age group, starting with 100 newly established clubs in Carrefour, near the capital of Port-au-Prince.

Carrefour is a largely poverty-ridden urban agglomeration of about 500,000, built on steep hillsides to the south of Port-au-Prince. Families cook the daily meals with charcoal. This is a poverty-respiratory disease-deforestation trap, but innovations such as solar ovens can help.

In the first stage of our collaboration the HAGN girls' clubs in four districts of Carrefour are to be provided with 100 solar ovens and related training, monitoring and stove performance evaluation. Participants will be able to develop experience in entrepreneurship, earn money from cooked items and aim toward stove sales and local assembly and distribution.

Entrepreneurship related to cooking builds on skills the girls already have; charcoal and its relation to health and hillside erosion is already common knowledge; and people have a sense something must be done about that. The work of several Haitian Government Ministries is relevant, and the Mayor of Carrefour is quite interested to see a success.

Objectives of the current efforts over a 3-year span are: piloting and expanded implementation of the solar ovens; technical and consumer testing of solar oven cooking and related guidance; trained cadre of skilled personnel, especially women and adolescent girls, as mentors and managers for food sales, monitoring, stove sales, business start-up and related work; and a scaled-up undertaking, focused on women's and adolescent girls' entrepreneurship.

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Public-Private Alliance Foundation
Tel: 914-478-3450
E-mail: ppafoundation@gmail.com

David Stillman, PhD, Executive Director
Cell: 914-924-0108
Website: www.ppafoundation.org



About the Consortium:

* Haiti Adolescent Girls Network (HAGN) <http://www.haitigirlsnetwork.org> HAGN is a Haiti-based nonprofit organization created by a collective of Haitian and international organizations committed to protecting and empowering adolescent girls.

* Solavore, LLC <http://www.solavore.com> Based in Minnesota, it manufactures and provides technology support for the Solavore Sport solar ovens.

* Konbit pou Developman Cotes de Fer (KDCK) <http://www.kdck-cdf.org> KDCK is a non-profit hometown organization with participation in the USA and Haiti. It provides demonstration and training related to use and promotion of the solar ovens.

* Solar Cookers International <http://www.solarcookers.org> Based in California and with representation at the United Nations in NYC, SCI's mission is to spread solar thermal cooking technology to benefit people and environments. It provides monitoring and evaluation support.

* Public-Private Alliance Foundation (PPAF) <http://www.pfafoundation.org> Based in New York, this non-profit organization provides overall program coordination and oversight, and participates in technical and training matters.

* Population Council <http://www.popcouncil.org> Based in New York it provides program advice as a "friend of the project." Its Poverty, Gender, and Youth Program supports/ collaborates with adolescent girls empowerment programs in several countries to help girls stay in school, avoid early marriage and pregnancy, learn about sexuality and health, and develop life skills.



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