

## Sun-Powered! Solar Ovens for Girls Entrepreneurship in Haiti

---

Solar cooking can be a high-margin, sustainable, rapid on-ramp to girls' and women's enterprise in Haiti. Our project aims to accomplish this with proven technology of Solavore solar ovens and a team of collaborators in association with the Haiti Adolescent Girls Network. Given below is a summary of the work getting underway by our consortium.

Image of typical participant & the setting	Description of typical participant & the setting
<p><b>Title:</b> Participant in Haiti Adolescent Girls Network (HAGN)</p>  <p><i>Photo: Jolie (l) &amp; Nadege (r), participants in HAGN</i></p>  <p><i>Photo: Street scene in Carrefour</i></p>	<p><b>Name:</b> Jolie</p> <p><b>Age:</b> 18</p> <p><b>Profession:</b> Part-time informal employee in open-air market in Carrefour, Haiti</p> <p><b>Any other key characteristics:</b> Jolie dropped out of school after 6<sup>th</sup> grade, lives with her grandmother because of difficulties in her family, has an infrequent and low income, and has a two-year old child.</p> <p><b>Concise description of what is happening:</b> Jolie has joined a HAGN "safe spaces" girls club, where she can build confidence, develop competence as a young adult and develop entrepreneurial skills. Her friend Nadege, also in the photo, is another HAGN club member. (HAGN is a Haiti-based nonprofit created by Haitian and international organizations committed to protecting and empowering adolescent girls. Established after the 2010 Haiti earthquake, HAGN currently has over 1,400 members in several locations, including young women mentors from these communities. It has researched several communities of Carrefour (pop. approx. 500,000), and is now developing an initial 80 clubs there.</p>

## Sun-Powered! Solar Ovens for Girls Entrepreneurship in Haiti

Title: Learning about solar ovens



Photo: Teaching use of Solavore oven

Concise description of what is happening:  
The Haiti representative of Solavore LLC engages with Jolie, HAGN mentors and other club members in training sessions on solar cooking and food sales. She builds on what they know about cooking and working in the informal sector, teaches new skills and recipes, and develops competence in running micro-enterprises. (Solavore has a 13-year track record for efficient, durable, high-quality solar ovens and is expanding into developing countries as a social enterprise. HAGN has already been helping members learn about earning and saving money and related financial skills.

Title: The power of the sun – It's a free and non-polluting fuel



Photo: Cooking squash on solar oven

Concise description of what is happening:  
Jolie and others learn they can make cakes in an hour and other items in less than three hours of sunshine for sale in the nearby open-air market. Solavore and the other project collaborators provide solar ovens and related advice to get them started. The fuel is free and with no smoke or soot, so the only expense is for ingredients. Jolie and others learn financial literacy skills in HAGN club meetings and arrange to put the profits into an account for club members to use together.

## Sun-Powered! Solar Ovens for Girls Entrepreneurship in Haiti

<p><u>Title:</u> Selling at the Market</p>	<p><u>Title:</u> Project team provides support</p>
	
<p><u>Photo:</u> <i>Girl with prepared food items for sale.</i></p> <p><u>Concise description of what is happening:</u>          Jolie and other HAGN members learn to use time, effort and preparations to best advantage, so as to maximize sales and profits. Many elements are involved, whether tied to solar ovens or other aspects of girls' empowerment and successful small business. Included are cost of goods sold, how much to charge, how to keep records, gross profit and net profit, selling in a good place at a good time, consumer and vendor preferences, scheduling and rotation among club members, innovation, collaboration, dealing with problems and frustrations, and monitoring and evaluation of stoves, products and the business.</p>	<p><u>Photo:</u> <i>Logos of Haiti Adolescent Girls Network, Solavore, Konbit pou Developman Commune Kote de Fer (KDCK), Solar Cookers International and Public-Private Alliance Foundation.</i></p> <p><u>Concise description of what is happening:</u>          Jolie, her club, and others like it receive support from <b>HAGN</b>, from <b>Solavore LLC</b>, and the other project collaborators, which are organizations representing users, implementers and effectiveness measurement. The <b>Solavore</b> representative for Haiti provides training and local support. She also promotes solar cooking as head of <b>KDCK</b>, a Haiti hometown association. <b>Solar Cookers International</b> provides training on solar cooking best practices, adoption and impact surveys and other testing and evaluation services. <b>PPAF</b> provides coordination and program participation based on its R&amp;D for non-polluting cookstoves in Haiti. A "friend of the project" is the <b>Population Council</b>, which supports adolescent girls' empowerment programs and "green energy" business in several countries.</p>

# Sun-Powered! Solar Ovens for Girls Entrepreneurship in Haiti

Title: Selling solar ovens



*Photo: A future Jolie as a young entrepreneur*

Concise description of what is happening:

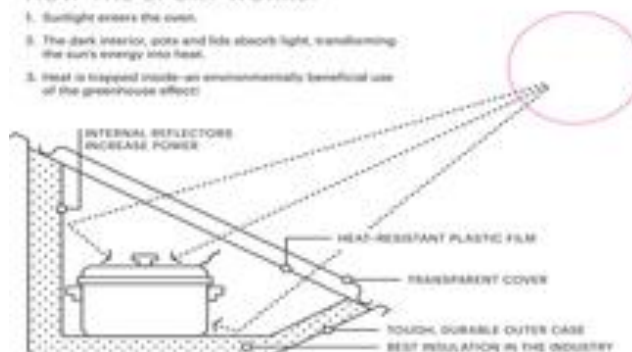
As the project grows and Jolie develops competence and a network, she and club members expand from selling food to renting and selling stoves. Customers will be hot food vendors, small-scale restaurant owners and families who recognize the “top line” value of new items for sale, the “bottom Line” value of savings on fuel (charcoal) and longer shelf life of cooked foods, plus better health from not breathing smoke and soot. Microfinance and timed payments will enable customers to benefit from solar ovens as savings build up. Another selling point will be action to encourage environmental benefits, as the region has seen much deforestation, population increase and environmental distress in recent decades.

Title: HAGN and its clubs scale up for broader sales and distribution of Solavore ovens



HOW THE SPORT WORKS:

1. Sunlight enters the oven.
2. The dark interior, pots and lids absorb light, transforming the sun's energy into heat.
3. Heat is trapped inside—an environmentally beneficial use of the greenhouse effect!



*Photo: Solavore Sport Oven with reflector, two pots and thermometer*

Concise description of what is happening:

A longer range goal for Jolie and for HAGN in general is to scale up and become a receipt/ assembly/ distribution point for Solavore ovens, in keeping with the life skills & entrepreneurship side of HAGN’s mission and possible association with a local factory. The existing project consortium could continue its collaboration. HAGN aims to increase club membership significantly during 2017. It recognizes that the heavy dependence on charcoal for cooking is a poverty-respiratory disease-deforestation trap in Haiti, and it aims to help overcome this. Improved cooking through Solavore ovens can be a signature activity and feature of HAGN, just as other forms of “green energy” are recognized features of adolescent girls’ empowerment programs in some other countries.

## Sun-Powered! Solar Ovens for Girls Entrepreneurship in Haiti

---

### 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. Myriam Narcisse, Executive Director
- \* Solavore, LLC <http://www.solavore.com> Based in Minnesota, it manufactures and provides technology support for the Solavore Sport solar ovens. Anne Patterson, CEO
- \* 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. Rose Bazile, Chair
- \* 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. Alan Bigelow, Science Director & Representative at the United Nations
- \* 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. David Stillman, Executive Director
- \* 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.

To contact the team, please call or e-mail;

David Stillman, PhD  
Executive Director  
Public-Private Alliance Foundation  
Cell: 1-914-924-0108; Desk: 1-914-478-3450  
[ppafoundation@gmail.com](mailto:ppafoundation@gmail.com)