



FINAL REPORT #24-05

30 Eco-Stoves

Ciudad de Sion Church, Los Riyitos, El Salvador



Prepared for

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December 2024

INITIATIVE BACKGROUND

Local leaders in Los Riyitos first identified the eco-stove initiative in 2020 as a response to health and environmental concerns associated with traditional cooking methods. In 2024, ENLACE, in partnership with Ciudad de Sion Church, launched this initiative to construct 30 eco-stoves with the community.

These eco-stoves were designed to reduce indoor air pollution, decrease firewood consumption, and improve overall health and safety for families in Los Riyitos. By providing healthier cooking environments, this project aimed to strengthen community relationships and promote sustainable practices that support quality-of-life improvements for vulnerable families in Los Riyitos.





IMPLEMENTATION: DESIGN AND BREAKING GROUND

In early 2024, ENLACE provided technical assistance to the local church and community leaders in developing the design for smoke-free, improved stoves. On May 4, 2024, a community survey was conducted with church leaders, local community development association leaders, and community members to identify the community's specific needs. During this meeting, the proposed design and budget were presented, and contributions from each stakeholder were defined.

A technical proposal was then developed, initiating the fundraising and planning phases. To ensure sustainability, the design prioritized efficient smoke ventilation, reduced firewood usage, and durable materials. On May 28, 2024, a model eco-stove was constructed, with church leaders, community leaders, beneficiaries, and health committee members attending to learn how to build the stove.

IMPLEMENTATION: CONSTRUCTION

Shortly after the model eco-stove was built, on June 3-5, a group of International volunteers joined the community effort, working alongside local beneficiaries and church members. Throughout construction, community members built 30 eco-stoves, adapting the improved stove design to each household's specific needs.



EVALUATION & CELEBRATION

An evaluation meeting took place on October 3, 2024, at Ciudad de Sion Church, where community members, church leaders, and ENLACE representatives discussed the outcomes. This meeting provided a platform to celebrate achievements and share feedback for future projects. The Los Riyitos community expressed deep gratitude, culminating in a celebration that acknowledged the invaluable contributions of donors and volunteers.



TERESA MARTÍNEZ, ELDER CAREGIVER

At 76 years old, Teresa Tepas Martínez has lived a life of resilience and sacrifice. She resides in Alvarado, a rural village nestled in the mountains of Los Riyitos in the department of Sonsonate. The journey to her home is challenging, with narrow paths that become treacherous in the rainy season. Teresa lives with her daughter and three grandchildren. Her daughter is a single mother who earns a small income of \$150 a month to support the household. The financial conditions makes propane inaccessible, resulting in the family collecting firewood throughout the day to fuel their traditional stove.

For years, Teresa cooked on the floor using an open fire, which exposed her and her grandchildren to constant smoke. As she aged, Teresa's health began to suffer, with respiratory issues becoming a constant battle. Preparing food was especially difficult during the rainy season, when the rain often extinguished her fire, leaving the family without cooked meals. "Many times, I cried with my children because I couldn't prepare their meals during the heavy rains," Teresa shared. She added, "On the other hand, when we could cook, the smoke would make us sick."

The eco-stove has transformed Teresa's daily life. She can now cook in any weather, and her family no longer suffers from smoke-related health issues. "My grandchildren are happy because I can cook for them when they go to school and when they return. Our life has changed; now we have a place to keep our food dry, and it's a lovely spot where we can sit together."



"I trust that God knows our needs. He is guiding us to a better future!"
-Teresa



ECO-STOVE BENEFICIARIES











PROJECT OUTCOMES



Construction of 30 eco-stoves

Construction of 30 eco-stoves including training on eco-stove maintenance and use serving 30 families in the hamlet of Los Riyitos. The initiative directly benefited 150 people.



CO2 Reduction

This initiative has reduced CO2 emissions and preserved more trees, benefiting the environment. Homemakers now spend less time on cooking and firewood collection, giving them more time for other activities.



Increasing Community and Church Capacity

This initiative has been a valuable experience for church and community leaders in achieving objectives, organizing effectively, and managing the logistics of materials and labor. It has prepared them to work together more effectively in the future.



Church & Community Relationship Strengthened

The church led weekly meetings with the health clinic and the local Community Dev. Association.

COMMUNITY & CHURCH CONTRIBUTIONS

Beneficiary

Contributions:

- Sand
- Cement
- Metal Wire
- Clay Griddles
- Metal Griddles
- Lime
- Water
- Labor

Ministry of Health

Contributions:

- Adhesives
- Health Check-Ups
- Clay
- Sand

Ciudad de Sion

Church Contribution:

- Sealants
- Gravel
- Material Transportation
- Vehicle Repair
- Sika Adhesives
- Safety Glasses
- Circular Saws
- Iron Rods
- Cement Tubes
- Clay Griddles
- Metal Griddels
- Bricks
- Labor

