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MODERN COOKING FOR HEALTHY FORESTS IN MALAWI ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

Modern Cooking for Healthy Forests (MCHF) promotes sustainable forest management and energy options to maintain forest cover and to reduce land-based emissions in Malawi. MCHF is a five-year activity funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the United Kingdom Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO). Tetra Tech implements MCHF in partnership with five subcontractors: Winrock International (WI), the Centre for Environmental Policy and Advocacy (CEPA), the Lilongwe Wildlife Trust (LWT), World Resources Institute (WRI), and mHub. MCHF's objectives include:

1. Promoting adoption of alternative energy sources and efficient cooking technologies to reduce unsustainable wood fuel cooking demand, and most importantly urban demand for illegal and unsustainable charcoal;
2. Improving local delivery of forestry services, and promoting forest-friendly enterprises, including sustainable charcoal and other biomass energies;
3. Strengthening regulation and enforcement to support sustainable wood fuel production and use;
4. Increasing the Government of Malawi's (GoM) implementation capacity of low emissions development in REDD+, Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR), and/or other land use; and
5. Leveraging interventions with partners, including USAID, FCDO, other development partners, GoM, and the private sector.

THE CHALLENGE

Malawi's forests are threatened due to reliance on biomass for energy and timber for construction; agriculture and settlement expansion; and harmful bushfires. The country's high population density and growth is deteriorating the situation. More than 96% of Malawian households rely on firewood and charcoal as their primary cooking fuels, and around two-thirds of urban households now rely on charcoal, which is the most significant driver of deforestation and forest degradation. In order to maintain forest cover and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, Malawi needs innovative solutions that prioritize citizens' cooking energy needs, and properly manage and regulate forest resources.

MCHF APPROACH

MCHF aims to reduce unsustainable wood fuel demand by increasing adoption of alternative cooking energies and fuel-efficient cooking technologies, increasing sustainable wood fuel supply, and strengthening Malawi's business and regulatory enabling environment by:

1. **Implementing a landscape approach** that addresses wood fuel supply and demand and reduces underlying drivers of forest cover loss;
2. **Developing inclusive and sustainable market systems across alternative energy, sustainable charcoal, and forestry value chains** by engaging a wide range of actors,

identifying leverage points that overcome market constraints, and facilitating market-based solutions that utilize local systems and resources;

3. **Engaging the private sector and mobilizing financing, investment, and additional resources** that mobilize and increase investments for the alternative fuels, fuel-efficient technology, and improved forest governance and forest land restoration;
4. **Building on and advancing key Government of Malawi policies and strategies**, such as the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy III, Malawi 2020 Vision Document, National Charcoal Strategy (NCS), National Energy Policy (NEP), and National Forestry Policy & Act;
5. **Strengthening local capacity for self-reliance and sustainability** by prioritizing local partners, working with and through GoM institutions, implementing facilitative market system approaches, and supporting human and institutional capacity development.

PRIORITY RESULTS BY OBJECTIVE

MCHF’s objectives and intended results are outlined below. For more information on objective-specific activities and outputs, please refer to the objective fact sheets or contact the activity office.

1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced consumer demand for fuel-efficient cooking technologies and alternative energy sources in priority urban areas • Improved supply of alternative energy and fuel-efficient cooking technologies and products • Improved production and market penetration of sustainable, legal charcoal
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved forest governance systems in targeted areas • Enhanced forest-friendly enterprises and livelihoods in targeted areas
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthened regulatory framework for charcoal production and use, and forest management • Improved capacity to enforce laws on illegal charcoal production and trade in forest products • Improved advocacy and public awareness on forestry laws and regulations
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved GoM capacity to manage and monitor forest landscapes • Institutionalized data management system for forest landscape management and monitoring • Improved capacity of forestry officials and communities to monitor forest landscapes
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implemented discrete integration opportunities with USAID and other development partners • Mobilized investment for sustainable landscapes

ILLUSTRATIVE ACTIVITY TARGETS

- 30% of households in urban areas have adopted alternative cooking energy sources and fuel-efficient cooking technologies
- 75% of households in or around targeted forest reserves have adopted alternative or fuel-efficient cooking technologies
- 16,000 hectares of degraded landscapes under improved natural resource management as a result of USG assistance
- 50% increase in annual conviction rate for illegal charcoal and other forestry crimes
- \$10M of investment mobilized for sustainable landscapes
- 11,000 tons of sustainable charcoal produced
- 70,000 people receiving livelihood co-benefits associated with implementation of USG sustainable landscape activities



CONTACT

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