

HEARTS AND HANDS - CORAZONES Y MANOS AND MUNICIPALITY OF SAN ANDRÉS SAJCABAJÁ, QUICHÉ

STOVE BUILDING PROJECT - TECHNICAL REPORT

By Rebeca Galindo Retana,
Hearts and Hands Program Director
Guatemala, May, 2020



Mrs. Luisa Castro Chunux and her daughters, after the stove installation,
In Xetulup, San Andrés Sajcabajá, Quiché

I. INTRODUCTION

According to the XII National Population Census and VII National Housing Census, carried out in 2018 in Guatemala by the National Statistics Institute -INE-, of the total of 3.27 million Guatemalan households, 1.78 million families, use firewood for cooking¹.

In other words, 55% of families in Guatemala use firewood as the main energy source to prepare their food.

43% use propane gas for cooking, and 2% use coal or electricity for cooking.

In the rural area, 84% use firewood for cooking and in the urban and urban-marginal areas, 32%.

The Departments with the highest percentage of use of firewood for cooking are Alta Verapaz, Huehuetenango, Quiché and San Marcos.

That is why, for Hearts and Hands - Corazones y Manos, the Stove Projects are extremely important for the development of the communities, contributing to make more efficient use of firewood, since the use of propane gas and electricity are very expensive for rural families.

During the years from 2004 to 2019, Hearts and Hands - Corazones y Manos, has implemented 44 Stove Projects in six municipalities of the Department of Quiché and three municipalities of the Department of Sololá, with a total of 4,619 families benefited with an efficient stove².

¹ Source: "More than 1.7 million households cook with firewood" Article published in EL PERIÓDICO, on 09-23-2019, with statistical data from the National Institute of Statistics of Guatemala –INE-

² Source: Quantitative Report of the XV Anniversary of Hearts and Hands - Corazones y Manos, Guatemala September, 2019



Mrs. Paulina Zapón, cooking with open fire (BEFORE)
Now she is cooking with an efficient stove (AFTER)

II. GENERAL INFORMATION OF THE PROJECT

Project: 50 efficient, wood-saving stoves “Chapina”

Objective: To contribute to improve the quality of life and health of 50 families in the rural area of San Andrés Sajcabajá, Quiché, through a stove project, eliminating open fires and inefficient stoves.

Location: Three rural communities of San Andrés Sajcabajá, Quiché:

♣ Pachalum = 10 benefited families

♣ Xetulup = 13 benefited families

♣ Las Canoas = 27 benefited families

Total = 50 benefited families

Date of the Project: February - May, 2020

Preparation of the community: February – March, 2020

Stoves installation: April 26th to May 2nd, 2020

Clarification: The stove installation, was planned to be carried out from March 21 to March 25, this year, by a group of **volunteers from Canada**, but due to the **COVID-19** pandemic, the Guatemalan borders were closed and the group of volunteers could not travel to Guatemala. Likewise, the quarantine ordered by the President of Guatemala, prevented the stoves from being installed during the month of March, and was finally carried out in the last week of April by the **Staff of Corazones y Manos and the Municipality** of San Andrés Sajcabajá, Quiché, under the rules of hygiene to avoid risks of spread or contagion of the virus.



Mrs. Juana's Little daughter watching as leave



Mrs.Luisa's daughters leading us to the next house to install a stove

III. STAGES OF WORK

Like all projects made by Corazones y Manos, the work was carried out in a tripartite manner in coordination with the Municipality of San Andrés Sajcabajá, Quiché and the communities. The project contemplated the following stages:

1. Agreement between Corazones y Manos and Municipality
2. Selection of the communities
3. Presentation of the project to the communities
4. Home visits
5. Training to the families on health, environmental care and stove maintenance
6. Delivery of stoves to the families
7. Stoves installation
8. Monitoring & supervision of the project (Stage to be carried out in the future)



Presentation of the Project to the communities, February, 2020

Delivery of stoves to the families, March, 2020



IV. RESULTS AND BENEFITS OF THE PROJECT

The results and benefits of the project affects families and institutions who made possible the project. Some of the main results and benefits are listed below:

1. Improves the health of families, eliminating open fires
2. Helps conserve the environment, eliminating inefficient stoves
3. It favors the family economy, reducing the amount of firewood used for cooking by 66%.
4. Develops female leadership, since the entire project is specifically coordinated with the Municipal Office for Women and with women community leaders.
5. Strengthens inter-institutional work, since the project is coordinated and financed by Corazones y Manos, by the Municipality and by the communities
6. It promotes teamwork with the communities, eliminating paternalism, since the communities must contribute financially too. The project is not free, in this way it is guaranteed that families value the project.





V. WORK EXPERIENCES

The families of the communities participated in all the stages of work and during the installation it was possible to see how they had taken care of their pieces and had the place where the stove would be installed ready.

The majority of families eliminated their old, inefficient stove or where their fire was open and placed their new stove with the base of it, since being of limited resources, not all could buy cinder blocks. Likewise, all the families put lime on their stoves to preserve them better and before the CyM staff left, the families made fire in the new stove, tested it and were explained how to take care of it. All the families expressed their appreciation for the installation of the stoves, as several of them had were cooking on makeshift fires, waiting for their new stove to be installed.



Mrs. Cruz Tum & Mr. Domingo Pérez before and after the stove installation. In the second picture, Mrs. Cruz is using a “chij” on her head, a special headband to looks nicer in the photo, since it was an emotional moment to receive her stove. Las Canoas, San Andrés Sajcabajá, Quiché.

The cooperation of the Municipality of San Andrés Sajcabajá was essential for the execution of the project, from the agreement, through the selection and visit to the communities, to the installation of the stoves. The Municipal financial contribution for this project was punctual and without major inconveniences.



Don Pedro Tix Gonzales, Mayor of San Andrés Sajcabajá, Quiché (center, red shirt),
Picture after a meeting of coordination between Corazones y Manos and Municipality

The families benefited from Las Canoas, offered a delicious lunch to the Corazones y Manos staff and to the municipal authorities, in gratitude for the Stove Project.



Lunch offered from the families of Las Canoas, to the Staff of CyM and Municipality



CyM staff, with blue sky T-shirt, from left to right: Rebeca Galindo, Elizabeth Curruchich, Santiago Morales, Andrés Delcompare y Kevin Recinos.

Municipality staff, from left to right: Domingo Olmos, Nelson Sam, José María Ixcuná y Andrés Us.



Farewell dinner at the Hotel Las Margaritas, San Andrés Sajcabajá, Quiché