



# Solar Household Energy, Inc.

Solar Cooking for Human Development and Environmental Relief

You can help by becoming a solar cook, an advocate for solar cooking or by donating to Solar Household Energy.

**What your contribution can provide:**

**\$10** = Support organization focused on reducing environmental degradation, feeding rural communities, and reducing cooking related mortalities worldwide.

**\$25** = Two days' worth of solar cooking instruction by a refugee camp resident, and the means to effect change within their community.

**\$50** = Delivery of two HotPot solar ovens to families in Africa, and a smoke free environment.

**\$150** = A solar oven and training for a family, and a means to self-sustainability.

**\$250** = One-week solar cooking demo/exhibit at relevant event in USA, and help increase global support.

**\$500** = A month's salary for a refugee camp resident solar cooking project manager, and enhanced capacity and livelihood.

**\$1000** = Three months solar cooking instructions and lifelong skills.

**\$2,500** = Start up solar cooking project pack for 10 families and improved life chances

**\$25,000-\$100,000** = Pilot project to bring 100-250 solar ovens to rural community in need, setting stage for a self-sustaining "scale up"

## Our Mission:

Solar Household Energy (SHE) strives to unleash the potential of solar cooking to improve social, economic and environmental conditions in sun-rich areas around the world.

Newsletter  
December  
2013

## Darfur refugees benefit from solar cooking

Since 2011, Solar Household Energy (SHE) in collaboration with The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), has been working on a pilot project with Darfur refugees. The camp located in Chad, has a shortage of fuel but abundant sunshine. Solar energy therefore presented the logical solution. It would help to meet the camp's fuel needs while reducing the high level of degradation resulting from the unsustainable harvesting of ground wood.

The double phase pilot has started well and two years on the initial Hotpots distributed are still in use. To ensure the second phase is equally successful and to

upscale the project, we need your help.

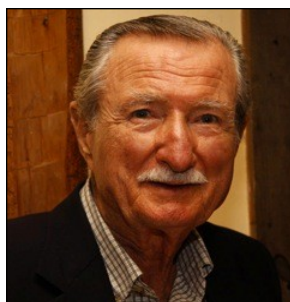
The aim is to extend the project so that others in this camp and in comparable situations can similarly benefit. By doing so, solar cooking will not only improve the welfare and living environment in the refugee camps. It is anticipated that as camps are disbanded the good practices adopted will continue, helping to meet on-going house hold cooking needs and making this a long-term sustainable development solution.

*"I wish others here could also have a cooker"* Pilot Project Participant 2012



**Nearly 2 million people die prematurely from illness attributable to indoor air pollution.**

(Source: [who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs292/](http://who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs292/))



## A key figure in the world of solar cooking

**Darwin Curtis**, a co-founder of Solar Household Energy and a central player in the organization since 1998, retired his position as President in 2012 and stepped down

from the Board in September 2013. Prior to this, he had a long career in the foreign service and served in the U.S. Merchant Marines during WWII.

Darwin has been a key enabler of the progress achieved by SHE during these past 15 years, including development of the popular HotPot solar cooker and project implementation globally. Confident of the contribution solar energy could make to health improvement, environmental

protection, poverty alleviation and economic development, Darwin published a watershed global analysis on the technology's potential in 1991. He has been convinced and motivated numerous people of the merits of solar cooking, including current SHE President—Cora Shaw and volunteers. Much to the delight of all who know Darwin, he has agreed to continue to advise and share his expertise and skills with SHE and the solar community.

**A sample of the many benefits of solar cooking:**

**Environmental - now and in the future**

- Reduction in use, transport and production of polluting fuels by a clean freely and readily available fuel,
- Preservation of local habitat, preventing desert encroachment, and
- Counter social pressures and demands on the environment resulting from predicted population growth.

**Economic – less expense and more time**

- Reduced ongoing fuel costs,
- Reduced time searching for fuel and cleaning cooking utensils/surrounds, and
- More time for income earning activities.

**Health, Nutrition and Safety – in the home and outside**

- Reduction in respiratory and other indoor smoke related illnesses,
- Increased nutrition retained in solar cooked food, and
- Reduction in fuel collection related attacks and confrontation (especially problematic in Chad due to scarcity of fuel and fragility of eco-system).



**SOLAR HOUSEHOLD ENERGY -**

a 501(c)3 non-profit charitable organization

3327 18th St. NW; Washington, DC 20010 USA [she-inc.org](http://she-inc.org)

**Solar cooking devices for Burma and Haiti—40 wishes grant**

The COMO Foundation granted two Wishes to Solar Household Energy.

**Monywe, Myanmar:**

The Yada Na Man Aung Monastic Education School in the Monywa village, in Monywa, Sagaing Division has about 170 children. The head monk has been considering all different practices to save fuel consumption in preparing foods for the children, so appreciated receiving the SunFocus Hybrid Solar-



Electric Oven. Our volunteer trained the cooks and translated all the manuals into Burmese. The monks have been testing it out in making different foods and boiling water for tea.

**Palmiste, Haiti:**

Our partner, World Central Kitchen, was investing in a Smart Kitchen and community garden in rural Palmiste. With this COMO wish, we were able to give support while promoting solar cooking. This is an area suffering massive deforestation and unemployment; WCK purchased a parabolic cooker and are teaching the local youth healthier cooking methods using clean cook stoves, while feeding the school's 300 students.

*"I put the cooker in the sun. It saves me time and in my case electricity."*  
Participant of HotPot Project Mexico

**IUCN "Nature Based Solutions" include Solar Cooking**

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) adopted a resolution on the use of solar cookers that fits into its new 'Nature Based Solutions'. This resolution was presented by Solar Household Energy and Grupo Jaragua from the Dominican Republic. Not only has it facilitated raising the profile of solar cooking in an international setting but it has tasked IUCN members to seriously consider solar as a viable cooking fuel alternative.



**Solar cooking in Washington DC snow storm. Michaela Borghese's chocolate cake shows it works.**

**\*Around 3 billion people cook and heat their homes using open fires and leaky stoves burning biomass (wood, animal dung and crop waste) and coal.**  
**\*Fuel gathering consumes considerable time for women and children, limiting other productive activities and taking children away from school. In less secure environments, women and children are at risk of injury and violence during fuel gathering.**

**World Health Organization (WHO) shares worrying impacts resulting from household fuel**

(Source: [who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs292/](http://who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs292/))

The extent of usage varies across countries with higher use generally concentrated in the less developed countries. For example, in the African region usage is recorded at 77% whilst in Europe it is just 5% and for the Americas 10%.



If you would like to connect with Solar Household Energy, visit our website ([she-inc.org](http://she-inc.org)) or email us at [inquiries@she-inc.org](mailto:inquiries@she-inc.org).