



This project will provide 400,000 men, women and children with improved access to clean energy.

THE MODEL

Since 2002, Global Village Energy Partnership (GVEP) has helped change the lives of more than 7 million people throughout the world by giving them access to clean energy.

GVEP is partnering with a local Senegalese charity, Social and Ecological Management Fund (SEM Fund), on a three-year initiative: "Energy Opportunities for Women in Senegal". The aim is to improve livelihoods, incomes, and employment in rural areas of Eastern Senegal by supporting 250 women-run micro and small enterprises (MSEs) that focus on expanding energy access and use. The women entrepreneurs will receive tailored, ongoing mentorship, business training, and financial support. The project will help women start, implement, and manage the steps necessary to strengthen their businesses.

THE STORY

Women in the Tambacounda and Kedougou regions of Senegal derive most of their income from agricultural crop processing and transformation, which can be greatly enhanced by the productive use of sustainable energy. Mrs. Kandé is one of these women.

In 2002, Mrs. Kandé started her dairy production in Kolda, a region in southern Senegal. Despite sufficient demand for fresh, pasteurised milk, her production was limited by the inability to power large machinery and refrigeration. Mentorship from GVEP, along with access to a loan, changed that. Mrs. Kandé used the loan to upgrade her machinery, replacing the two small freezers that preserved her milk with solar powered tanks and a cold room. This upgrade enabled her to save energy costs and double her dairy production to 300 litres per day. She felt encouraged to recruit six new staff members, which increased her team from seven to thirteen.

This success has motivated Mrs. Kandé to share her experience at international events such as the Paris International Agricultural Show. She has become a role model for aspiring businesswomen and has received recognition for her accomplishments from government officials, including Macky Sall, the President of Senegal.

**Traditional cookstove
smoke KILLS ABOUT
6,300 Senegalese
each year.**



**Penetration of
cookstove use in the
project region is
LESS THAN 4%.**



The project is taking place in the Tambacounda and Kedougou regions of Senegal.

THE IMPACT

According to the World Health Organization, inefficient, smoky cookstoves kill an estimated 6,300 Senegalese residents every year. Furthermore, rural communities in the regions of Tambacounda and Kedougou suffer from low access to energy – 9 percent and 4 percent respectively – as well as chronic poverty and unemployment. While dependence on solid fuel for cooking is high (89 percent), less than 4 percent of the population is in possession of improved cookstoves.

This initiative will contribute to women's economic empowerment by supporting an estimated 250 women entrepreneurs. As a result, it will considerably impact their estimated 4,500 family members, who will benefit from the extra income. More significantly, the initiative will provide 400,000 women, men, and children with improved access to clean energy, including smallholder farmers and those working at retail outlets and small local businesses.



One-on-one training and tailored support is part of the GVEP and SEM Fund partnership.

ADVOCACY & AWARENESS

GVEP invites government officials to outreach activities that focus on the economic and social benefits of income-generating activities for women. This work helps raise awareness of the opportunities and challenges relating to women's economic empowerment and energy access at the national and community levels. The organization is contributing to the SE4All national action plan in Senegal and ensuring that gender perspectives remain a part of the energy access conversation. GVEP is also creating media and communications products to advocate for gender and energy issues across the country. Through a joint campaign with SEM Fund, GVEP will reach 3 million people in Senegal.