

Report from Kakuma Refugee Camp



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23 February 2005

The Kakuma refugee Camp is situated in the North-West of Kenya. It is a very dry area and hot throughout with temperatures of 37 - 40 °C (98.6 - 104 °F). The area has got no trees no water either.

Kakuma was formed in 1972 when the Sudanese refugees first arrived in Kakuma. Currently, there is a population of 88.000 refugees from various countries, namely: [Sudan](#), [Somalia](#), [Ethiopia](#), [Eritrea](#), [Uganda](#), [Rwanda](#), [Burundi](#) and the [Democratic Republic of the Congo](#). The Sudanese population comprises 70% of the total population and form the majority population

- We had extended solar cooker technology to schools, especially primary school, through demonstrations, poems, songs and drama.
- We had also trained refugees on how to use [Water Pasteurization Indicators](#) (WAPIs). This was the time when the Typhoid disaster struck camp and there was also acute shortage of water as some of the refugees went to collect stagnant water in the river Tarach that surround Kakuma Refugee Camp.
- We had also trained the community leaders on the acceptance of the solar cooking of which Target Groups were selected of which 30 Target Group members per each zone in the camp were identified.
- Refresher trainings were conducted to the users to make sure that they don't forget on how to solar cook different types of recipes.
- In 1999-2002 in an effort to make Kakuma a better place to live, we had found out that it was difficult to sell [CooKits](#) due to the destitute and vulnerable refugees in Kakuma who could not afford to buy a CooKit at a price of KSh 50,- So we had to mobilize the community to plant 10 trees for a CooKit. the head of a family had to plant 10 trees per CooKit plus plastic bag which was successful as the camp has got some trees now there. These were not there at the refugees' arrival in Kakuma.
- SOCOCO (Solar Cookers Cooperative) was formed in 2004 after the phase-out of the Kakuma Solar Cookers Project in 2004. After the phase-out of the Kakuma Solar

Cookers project in 2003. The members of the SOCOCO were drawn from the former staff of SCI-Kakuma.

- SOCOCO now acts as a centre of training for Solar Cooking. It is a hotel where different types of food are solar cooked). The customers for this centre come from near by the area (mainly the host community plus the refugees themselves).
- More than 20.000 CookKits were distributed to 2000 families, since 1995-2000. These families were mainly refugees.
- Types of solar cookers that we have now in the SOCOCO centre for solar cooking different types of food: 2 solar boxes, 2 parabolic cookers, 4 fireless cookers and 5 CookKits.
- Cultural attitudes had first overwhelmed us in rendering our services to the various communities in the camp. But we didn't give up. It was believed in some cultures that women only cook while men do not. We had put more effort to involve men in solar cooking and we did so successfully.
- Recommendation: As Sudanese peace pact had been signed in Nairobi this year many Sudanese refugees are now very optimistic about the peace and some would like to return to [Sudan](#) as they find that it is a real peace. We therefore propose that solar cooking technology be extended to South Sudan in the years to come.