

# STUDENT INSTRUCTIONS

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL THEME: GENDER EQUALITY & WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

### The Context (4 minutes):

Gender inequality is still a major issue in many parts of the world. While equality in primary education has been achieved, this hasn't been the case across all levels of education. In many countries, gender inequality persists and women continue to face discrimination in access to education, work and economic assets, and government participation. In particular, violence against women continues to undermine efforts to achieve equality, even in Australia. This is not an isolated issue.

In the developing world, one interesting piece of technology that contributes to gender equality and women's empowerment is a solar cooker. A solar cooker is a device which harnesses the sun's energy to cook food, and therefore reduces reliance on scarce firewood or other non-renewable fuels. The introduction of solar cookers may positively affect a number of aspects of a woman's life:

- In arid environments where trees are scarce, women and children may walk many kilometres each day to collect wood for cooking. Since solar cookers do not require wood fuel, women would have more productive hours available in each day.
- If there is no need to collect wood for cooking, the potential risk of being attacked in the wilderness is eliminated.
- Solar cookers are smoke-free (as opposed to traditional stoves inside poorly ventilated dwellings), therefore there is a reduced risk of many diseases like acute pulmonary infections, chronic bronchitis and lung cancer. According to the World Health Organisation, smoke inhalation is responsible for nearly 2 million deaths around the world each year, especially amongst women and children.
- Solar cookers can use UV light to pasteurize water and milk, making them safe for consumption.
- By using the sun, money can be saved which would otherwise be spent on cooking fuel (up to 25% of a family's total income in many cases). This money can be used for food, education and healthcare.
- Solar cookers open opportunities to the creation of small restaurants or bakeries which otherwise would not be viable. This can create an empowering opportunity for women.

### Pre-Activity Discussion:

Brainstorm as many advantages as you can for using a solar cooker in your group.

*continued over*

### Activity: Construct a Solar Cooker (15 minutes):

There are many different ways of designing a solar cooker. Cost, durability and availability of materials are key considerations. Work together in your group to construct the cooker with a budget of \$10. You may purchase a selection of materials and use free materials that are available as well. Free materials are those things that could be easily acquired at no cost in reality. Remember, some items may be more useful than others.

#### **Materials**

#### **Cost**

• Transparent Panel	\$5
• Umbrella	\$3
• Oven roast bag	\$2
• Compact Disc	\$1
• Tape	\$1
• 10 Pegs	\$1
• Wire coat hanger	\$1
• Aluminium foil	\$1
• Newspaper	FREE
• Cardboard	FREE
• Scissors	[Provided]

### Post Activity Discussion & Evaluation (6 minutes):

Join the discussion lead by your facilitator about the approach taken by agencies like UnitingWorld and the Anglican Board of Mission as they work with overseas partners towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

**Complete the Questions relating to this activity on your sheet.**

#### **Question:**

Describe two ways that women in rural villages may experience empowerment through using solar cookers.

Why are strengths and skills important for empowerment?