



Die Ofenmacher e.V.

Rauchfreie Küchenöfen statt offenes Feuer



Annual Report 2022

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Cover Picture: „Thanks for my stove“ „derei dhaniabat chulo ko lagi“

Changes in Ofenmacher's Charter

On April 20, 2022, the General Meeting decided to make two significant changes to the Association's charter. These concern the objectives of the association and the modalities for future amendments to the charter.

Objectives of the association extended

The previously valid statutes of the Ofenmacher defined the goals of the association very narrowly and limited them to stove construction. This clarity of focus has been a success factor in promoting our projects in the past, and we do not intend to abandon it in the future.

However, if this definition was interpreted strictly, accompanying actions that could have made the stoves more attractive and strengthened their effectiveness in preventing greenhouse gases would not have been possible. Examples include planting trees for the new stove owners, as is planned in Ethiopia, or the distribution or sale of solar lamps with the stoves.

In order not to run the risk of jeopardizing the non-profit status of the association by failing to meet our objectives, the target corridor was slightly expanded. The new charter explicitly mentions the "promotion of nature conservation and environmental protection, including climate protection". This now takes into account the climate impact of the stoves and makes it possible to carry out accompanying actions such as those mentioned above.

Resolution facilitated in the future

The objectives of a non-profit association are protected by law in a special way.

Unless otherwise specified in the articles of organization, the objectives can only be changed with the 100 percent approval of all members with voting rights. However, this becomes more and more difficult to achieve as the size of the association increases (today: 91 members, 71 of whom have voting rights). To avoid this problem in the future, a second change was decided: In § 10 (Resolution) it is now foreseen that also the change of objectives can be done in the future with a two-thirds majority of the members present, as it was the case so far for all amendments of the charter.

It took a great deal of effort to obtain the written consent of all members who were not present at the meeting, which again underscores the importance

of the amendments. The amendments to the Charter of Association became valid upon registration by the Munich Local Court on August 18, 2022.

The charter of the association can be found on our Internet pages under <https://ofenmacher.org/welcome/about-us/organisation/>

Frank Dengler

Climate Compensation for long Distance Tours

Wikingen Reisen GmbH in Hagen is a specialist for hiking, trekking and cycling tours worldwide. And for more than six years, it has been a loyal partner and sponsor of the Ofenmacher in the field of climate protection. The tour operator calculates the CO₂ footprint, i.e. the amount of CO₂ emitted during the undertaking, for all tours offered. Each guest had so far with the reservation the possibility of setting its individual journey climate-neutrally as a personal contribution to climatic protection. With a donation to Ofenmacher, our association retired the corresponding number of VER certificates. This means that the corresponding amount of CO₂ is permanently withdrawn from the global cycle. The CO₂ savings behind this are verified in the climate protection project in Nepal according to the strict Gold Standard regulations.

Unfortunately, only a small minority of guests took advantage of the offer of the cooperation between Wikingen Reisen and Ofenmacher. Too little for the tour organizer! He wants to achieve much more on the subject of sustainability and climate protection. Therefore, Wikingen Reisen has changed its sustainability strategy. Since this year the enterprise itself takes over the climatic compensation. And the successful cooperation with the stove makers will be continued. The CO₂ emissions of all long-distance trips that take place at Wikingen Reisen are made climate-neutral via the Gold Standard Project of the Ofenmacher. An enormous asset for climate protection. And a strong sign of trust in the cooperation!

Reinhard Hallermayer

Gold Standard®

Climate Security & Sustainable Development

Climate Protection Project in Nepal

Gold Standard Project GS 1191: "Smokeless cookstoves for rural districts of Nepal"

Ten years have passed since the Gold Standard Project was launched and smokeless stoves are being installed by Swastha Chulo in Nepal. Normally, this would have been the end of the project. But the massive earthquake in April/May 2015 completely disrupted the project's schedule. A three-year time-out had to be requested from Gold Standard. And stove construction could also only be resumed after a considerable time had passed in the project area. Almost 6,000 destroyed stoves had to be replaced. In Dolakha district, many more new stoves were built in addition to the replacements.

About 16,000 stoves are now taken as the total number that can be credited to the climate protection project. Many more stoves will be added in 2022, but they will no longer be assigned to the project. The Gold Standard micro-scale project allows for crediting in CO₂ savings up to a maximum limit of 10,000 tons of CO₂. This figure will definitely be reached with 16,000 stoves and the proven utilization behavior.

In 2022, the project was credited with 17,131 VER certificates from Gold Standard. This amount came from the verified CO₂ savings from the 4th monitoring period from 01/08/2019 to 30/04/2021. In total, the project has proven CO₂ savings of 32,654 tons to date (see below a screen shot from Gold Standard Registry as of 31/12/2022,

Link: <https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/1191/>.

The Ofenmacher were able to retire 3,206 VER certificates in the year under review. This means that 3,206 tons of CO₂ were removed from the global cycle. Compared to the previous year, this was a doubling. The donations for CO₂



This stove with ID WR0110 was built in Dolakha on Jun 18, 2019.

compensation came from guests of Wiking Reisen, other private donors, companies and institutions.

The climate compensation of the Lafim Diakonie is particularly noteworthy. The provider of charitable services in Brandenburg offsets its entire unavoidable CO₂ emissions through climate protection projects as part of its environmental management. For 1,000 tons of CO₂, they chose Ofenmacher as their climate protection partner.

Our project delivers a substantial contribution to 4 of the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Reinhard Hallermayer



GS ID 1191		PRODUCT VER	32654 ISSUED	12871 RETIRED	CERTIFIED SDG IMPACTS 	PROJECT TYPE Energy Efficiency - Domestic	STATUS Gold Standard Certified Project
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Berichte aus den Ländern



Stove Projects Nepal

The year 2022 in Nepal was dominated by the ups and downs of the Corona pandemic, by the effects of climate change, and politically by two elections. Stove construction in the region was directly and indirectly affected by these events and at some times became very difficult.

General situation: In January and February, the number of people infected with Corona rose sharply and officials again declared lockdowns. Schools, colleges and universities were closed, as were all government offices and banks. Businesses were allowed only very limited opening hours and public transport was largely suspended. Many vaccination services were offered everywhere. From the beginning of March, this wave of infection was over and the situation slowly returned to normal in all areas. For the rest of the year, the pandemic was virtually no longer an issue. Instead, an intensified dengue fever epidemic flared up in early summer, particularly affecting the Kathmandu Valley.

The different regions in Nepal had to struggle with weather extremes during the year. January was unusually cold and the rain in the lowlands fell as snow in the hills. Entire villages were isolated and had to be supplied with food from the air. A heavy monsoon set in as early as April. Earlier than usual and it lasted especially long. Even at the autumn festival times in October, it rained again and again. Flooding in the south (lowlands) and massive landslides with destruction of complete settlements as well as many agricultural terrace fields were the result.

Politically, Nepal's young democracy is still in the process of consolidating its structures. Federalization with the formation of new states, the appointment of their capitals and a reform of the municipal structure are largely complete. Local elections were held in spring. This sounds simple to our ears, but it is not there.

More than in our country, everyday life is affected by complicated regulations for citizens and municipalities.



Landslide in District Ramechhap

Election events in the villages are usually like a big party and are consequently accompanied by a festive meal. Parties provide buses to take people to their home villages, which are often far away. Illustrated voting ballots help less educated people.

In fall, the "big elections" were held across the country, with similar blockings of many general work processes in the city and countryside as had already occurred in spring. For example, countless "assistant police officers" were hired as security personnel for the election events and the voting. The promises made by the individual parties were played from loudspeakers on vehicles. Around the actual election, flexible holidays were ordered and life came to a standstill again for this reason. In the meantime, a new government has been formed and people can once again focus on other things.

Stove construction: Our focus was on the area in Nuwakot. Although the district is very easy to reach from the capital, it stretches very far across the foothills of the Himalayas. Nuwakot borders Kathmandu to the north and parts of the Sivapuri and Langtang National Parks are located here. The old trade route from Kathmandu to Tibet also goes through Nuwakot.

An area of 1,121 km² is home to 263,000 inhabitants, mostly in rural communities.

After stove construction began there last year, about 7,500 were planned for Nuwakot in 2022. The opening of the eight-day stove-building training in January was also attended by the local chief of the district, who spoke about the absolute need to equip households with smoke-free stoves. Although some of the participants complained of cold symptoms in between, all were able to successfully complete the course. The construction of the stoves started, but was interrupted again and again due to the obstacles described above. Thus, at the end of the year, our goals could not be fully achieved.



Training: From brick production ...



... to the first firing up



Gopal Tamang and Jiwan Tamang, Dolakha

In other areas, an unexpectedly large number of mud stoves were set up for this purpose. For years, Dolakha has been one of the areas from which a large number of stoves are regularly reported. Our two youngsters are active here and have made a name for themselves throughout the district as reliable chulo masters ("stove builders").

But stove-building activities were also intensified again in Ramechhap. And in West Rukum, Sushila Bhatta, our senior stove builder, started work again. Because she does not like to travel alone, she spontaneously took her husband with her, who also builds stoves. In West Rukum we probably see our future stove-building area. It is much further away from the capital and can only be reached by a fourteen-hour bus ride.



Sushila Bhatta



Test field behind the hotel

Training

At the beginning of 2022, a training for stove building candidates was held. The coordinator, Kiran Lama, had organized everything well. A whole "hotel" was rented in the village of Battar, where 20 trainees were accommodated and fed for eight days. There were four-bed rooms, every day daal bhat, a rice dish with lentils, and meat! "Stove builders need a lot of power" said Kiran Lama, who then taught the theoretical basics.

The field adjacent to the hotel was used as a training ground. Our trainer Bel Bahadur Tamang was responsible for the practical training. Mud can be easily dug out of the ground everywhere, and in the course of the week 20 smokeless stoves were built, as each future stove builder had a "masterpiece" to assemble. After a happy week together, the group left to begin work in their respective home communities. Beginners are still accompanied and guided by a coordinator until they have built about 150 stoves. Only after this do they also receive a "diploma" as stove builders.

Not all of the trained stove builders stay with the company permanently. For this reason, interested

parties are always trained and accompanied in practice so that they can then take part in the next major training event. We call this "training on the spot".



Final Group after the Training

Monitoring

In the spring of 2022, a monitoring team was finally able to go to the villages again and carry out direct interviews with the stove users. The pandemic regulations had prevented this for two years. However, the direct feedback is particularly important to us, because all too often it becomes apparent that this may also require guidance on the proper use of the stoves. Many problems and difficulties can thus be dealt with on the spot. In addition, the specified standards are checked and adjusted again and again. The field-visit team was personally on the road in Dholaka, while telephone monitoring was carried out in other areas.

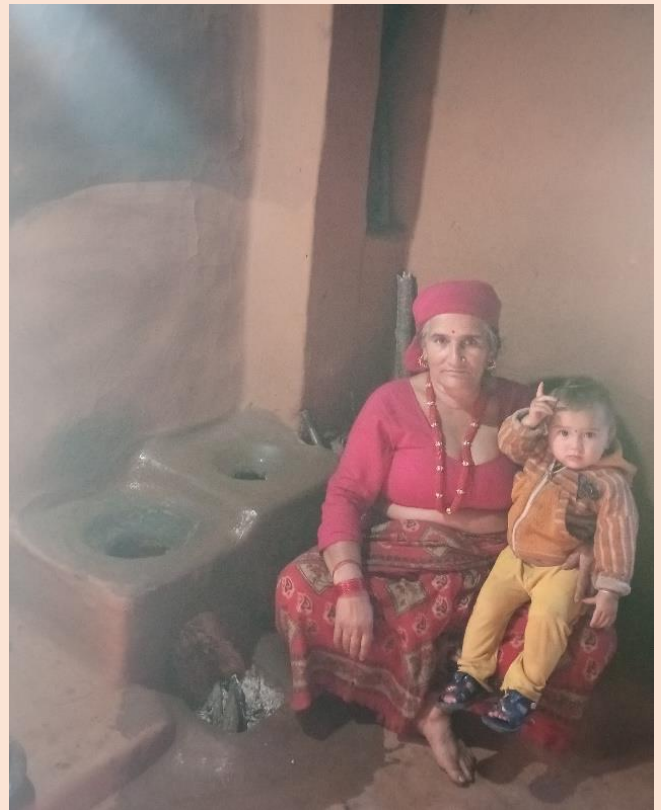
Maintenance: In Gulmi, the maintenance project has been running since 2019. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, the repairs of the stoves were reduced to almost "zero". During a visit at the beginning of the year, all active "maintenance experts", as our "chimney sweeps" are called in Nepal, met.

The feedback contained very different problems, not all of which had something to do with the lockdown. One issue was the payment of experts, but this has been raised. Information and motivation of the stove users also had to be improved before the first positive results got around and became publicity for the maintenance service.

Discussions with local politicians were again carried out by our coordinator in Gulmi, Mr. Rajendra Bista. It was ensured that support is also given at this level. Since the last quarter, the reported repair figures have been increasing again.



Repaired stove and ...



... satisfied housewives

Swastha Chulo Office

Swastha Chulo means "healthy cooking place" and is the name of our Nepalese partner association. (SCN) In the now well-established office in Kathmandu, the strings of all activities come together. Anita Badal, the manager, organizes, manages and coordinates all the work. The contact with the coordinators is always a fixed appointment, usually at the end of each month, in order to receive the reports of the built stoves, to secure the payment of the stove builders as well as to listen to problems, difficulties and new ideas. In the office all the data is collected, which is then entered into the comprehensive data bank by other assistants. Bookkeeping is an important point and Anita is supported by a part-time employee. All financial actions are controlled annually by state-approved accountants (auditors).

When purchasing a new motorcycle for off-road use, numerous bureaucratic obstacles had to be overcome. The increase in prices for materials and food also has an impact in Nepal and requires negotiating skills for every purchase, because there are hardly no fixed prices!

The project registration and monitoring by the Social Welfare Council (SWC), a government office for all non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working in Nepal, is extremely important and at the same time extremely complicated. Thus, Anita always has many appointments there in order to claim their contributions in a prompt manner. In December, a project visit was carried out for the evaluation of the Arghakanchi project by the SWC. These are regularly on the program. Several times one was in the district Nuwakot, also Dolakha was on the list, likewise Gulmi and Arghakanchi. The discussions on site provide valuable insights and are always motivating.



Anita Badal with a stove builder during accounting



Visit of sponsor Hartmut Darmstadt in the office

But visitors also like to come to the office. People who are active in fundraising in Germany and want to see how the donated money is used make the trip. Official visitors of our partner organization "Climate Partner" came to the SCN office for a preliminary discussion of a joint project. Again and again, "helpers with burning hearts" appear, who have read about our work on the homepage and would like to initiate a project or have already done so. The guests benefit from Anita's wealth of experience.

Regular board meetings of SCN - this is equivalent to our board meetings - take place and are of course recorded in minutes. The members of the board come from different fields of work and are committed to the project on a voluntary basis. In this round new ideas are also brought in and discussed again and again. Currently, the possibilities of an energy mix in the kitchens are being discussed.

In addition to wood fires and gas, a stable electricity supply is now available in some areas of the country - perhaps a future opportunity for further emission savings.

Christa Drigalla

Stove Projects Ethiopia



Northern Ethiopia

Unfortunately, the war in the north of the country continued almost until the end of 2022. It was not until November that the rebels in the Tigray agreed with the central government on an immediate ceasefire and signed a peace agreement, which has so far been respected. In this new situation, life in the north of the country is gradually returning to normal, so that our plans to reactivate the project in Simien Mountains are becoming realistic. In fact, we held a refresher training in Debarq in March 2023 to reactivate the project staff.

Alem Ketema and Merhabete

Despite the temporary worries that the war might also reach the Merhabete district, the activities of our stove builders continued steadily. In 2022, for example, we were able to set a new record with 1,401 stoves built in one year. This allows us to look to the new year with confidence.

Frank Dengler

Project „Stoves and Trees“

In order to set a signal for climate protection and to make the stoves in Ethiopia even more attractive, the "Stoves and Trees" project was created. Potential stove owners are invited or offered to take over a sponsorship for planted trees when they receive a stove. This offer is intended to increase the attractiveness of the stoves and at the same time to make the area around Alem Katema a little greener.

Abebaw told us that the last summer was hotter than any summer before. Temperatures of almost 50 degrees prevailed. There was hardly any shade to be found. Especially in countries like Ethiopia, climate change and thus global warming are clearly noticeable.

Planting in the year 2021

During the rainy season of 2021, a total of 500 mango tree seedlings were planted in Geren near the Jamma River. This location was chosen in order to have water available for watering. Funding for the tree seedlings was provided by the Department of Agriculture. Shortly after planting, unfortunately, there was a big flood and almost half of the seedlings were washed away or damaged.

Planting in the year 2022

During the rainy season in June, another 800 mango tree seedlings were planted in Geren. This time not so close to the river bed, but further up the hill on a community field. Here the seedlings should be safe from the next flood. The communal fields are used to grow corn or teff, for example. The mango trees are to grow in the shade of the corn for the first few years. For the planting on the fields it was agreed with the responsible families that the trees and tree groups will be fenced and irrigated. In order to better secure the irrigation, it was discussed to what extent the Ofenmacher can support the procurement of the technical infrastructure (pump and appropriate pipes).

At an extraordinary board meeting shortly before Christmas, we were able to approve the necessary funds for two diesel-powered water pumps and 650 meters of piping. The total cost of the irrigation system was 130,000 Ethiopian Birr (ETB), which is equivalent to about 2,300 €. The cost of running the system, for example the diesel fuel, will be borne by the owners of the trees.

Monitoring of the trees is planned for ten years. The very fast implementation of this decision and the starting up of the pumps can be seen in the following pictures:



Delivery of tubes and the pump



„Water go“ near by the Jamma river

Anja Naumann and Matthias Warmedinger

Stove Project Kenya

In the first half of the year, stove construction proceeded as expected. By July, we had distributed 114 stoves, 96 of them Jiko Smart, which made up the largest share and proved their appeal to the rural population.

Our special model, made of a combination of metal casing and ceramic core, is inexpensive, portable and multi-purpose, either indoors or outdoors.

With the transfer of responsibility at OI Pejeta from Richard Vigne to Justin Heath, major organizational changes occurred at the Conservancy.



Jiko Smart in operation

The strategic reorganization by the new CEO also affected the stove project and led to a temporary stop of the stove construction and to a change in the project responsibility. We expect to resume stove construction with the usual momentum once the organizational realignment has been completed. In 2022, we were only able to supply 114 stoves to just under half as many households as in the previous year, but we hope that we will be able to match the old figures again in 2023.

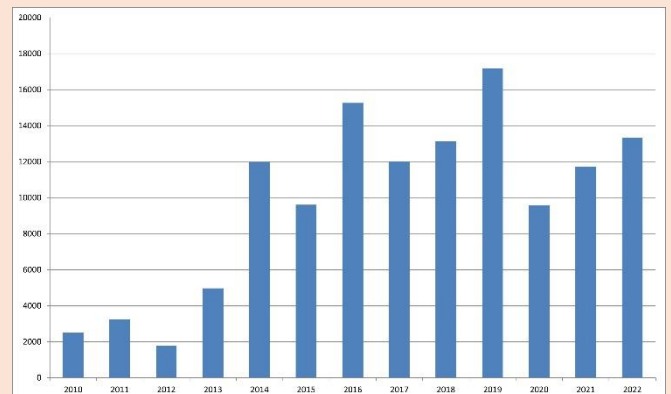
Frank Dengler



Zwei neue Jiko smart

All Countries

In all three countries together, we built 13,341 stoves in 2022, including 11,826 in Nepal, 1,401 in Ethiopia, and in Kenya 114.



Annual stove construction figures, total across all countries

We are gradually working our way back up from the Corona low and are looking to continue this trend into 2023.

Satisfied Families

Utilization of the clean stoves in Nepal

An important part of the work of the stove builders in Nepal is the on-site monitoring in the stove building areas. Three essential aspects are checked in the process:

- How is the current condition of the stove?
- How is the stove used?
- How satisfied are the users?

The survey of this data is essential for the climate protection project, because it is required to prove the CO₂ savings. This determines the assignment of the VER climate protection certificates. Likewise, for the entire stove construction activities, monitoring is a control and ultimately a confirmation of success. After all, in addition to the "bare" stove construction figures in our Chulo database, the visits to the houses are evidence of the importance of clean stoves within the families. The direct inspection immediately proves that a stove significantly increases the quality of life of its owners.

The effort for monitoring through field visits is considerable. A visit sometimes lasts only a few days, but sometimes up to two weeks, and takes the participants into the hilly countryside of Nepal, which is often difficult to reach. Getting there by public transport is complicated and sometimes not without danger. Long walks are not uncommon to reach the remote villages.

In coordination with Gold Standard, some visits could be replaced by telephone surveys. This is because many stove owners provided their telephone number when the stove was installed. On the basis of a standardized questionnaire, a whole range of information is obtained about the installed stove, its use and the satisfaction of the families. Problems encountered and the height of the stove are also documented (see picture opposite).

In 2022, a total of 602 families were surveyed who had received a smoke-free stove in the carbon offset project area. 227 were visited at home and 375 stove owners were interviewed by telephone. The stoves themselves came from all construction phases from 2013 to 2021.

The satisfying results in a nutshell:

- **85 percent of all installed stoves are still in use**
- **89 percent is the average utilization rate of these stoves**
- **98 percent of owners are satisfied with their stoves**

The high usage rate means that families use our distributed stoves for daily cooking almost without exception. These results fill us with some pride and are an impetus for our further commitment. From these figures, one can also appreciate that one of the main objectives of the association, health care, is fully achieved.

The following picture shows the inspection of a finished stove. The visited homes are mostly very simple dwellings and cannot be compared with apartments in Central Europe. However, they give the viewer an idea of how exhausting life in the countryside in Nepal must be.

Reinhard Hallermayer



Measurement of chimney's height

Our Ethiopian Partners in Munich

The invitation of governmental authorities to the 5th partnership conference between German and African municipalities in Dresden, finally resulted in the opportunity for Alem Ketema's mayor, Birkabirk Teshome, and our Ethiopian Country Director, Abebaw Birhanu, to make a side trip to Munich.



Äthiopien und Alem Katema im Überblick

The future of stove construction in Ethiopia and our "Stove and Trees" project were in focus of the workshop in Munich along with the topic of cooperation.

Direction of stove construction in Ethiopia

The current stove technology is highly appreciated and accepted in both rural and urban areas. Especially in urban areas, the stoves are an alternative cooking option to the electric stove top due to frequent power outages. Therefore, in the next two to three decades, the stoves in the current design will be very important and useful for the majority of the Ethiopian population. However, there is a strong demand for options to place the stove elsewhere in the kitchen or house. Different height levels are also desired. The possibilities for relocating the stove were discussed with Christoph Ruopp at the meeting with Abebaw Birhanu.

In conclusion, the discussion showed that despite the large dam project and the associated better expansion of the power grid, the clay oven will have a future in Ethiopia for decades to come.

And so we will confine our reporting to some visual impressions from the workshop and the supporting program, during which our guests, Abebaw and Birkabirk, were able to take home a few other insights in addition to the stove discussion.

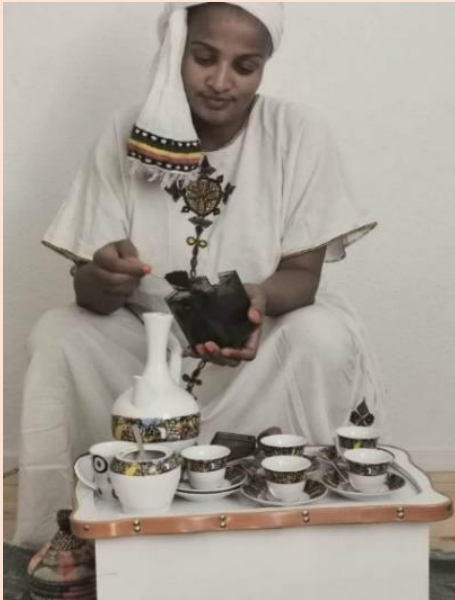


After an exhaustive day at work: dinner at Tambosi

The highlight came at the end: a very delicious, original Ethiopian meal and a coffee ceremony of the finest, with Christoph Ruopp and his wife Eshet. So we could confidently face the goodbye tour to Frankfurt.

It is also important to mention that all expenses for our guests were covered by the participating Ofenmacher, so no money from the donation pot had to be used for the event. The association thanks all those who opened their own wallets for this purpose.

Anja Naumann and Matthias Warmedinger



Ethiopian coffee ceremony at its very best ...



... celebrated by Eshet, Christoph Ruopp's wife.

Handicraft for good Purpose

It is October 13, an autumn day with bright sunshine. Matthias Warmedinger and I are just outside Salzburg. It's a dream how the city, bordered on several sides by the alpine mountains, looks in the noon sun and encourages us to visit the historic old town. But we are not on the road as Alpine tourists.

We are invited to the symposium of the EFA, the "European Fireplaces Association". Participants are industry representatives from the fields of stove and fireplace construction from all over Europe, industry associations as well as the Federal Association of the Chimney Sweeping Craft and, of course, research, more precisely the German Biomass Research Center. Here, major projects are underway with the focus on "environmentally compatible combustion". To avoid any speculation: We Ofenmacher were not invited to expand the group of experts. The item on the agenda that was important for us was "Donation campaign Thermo kits for Nepal".

Michaela Waldecker, who has been a member of the Ofenmacher for a long time, was already involved in the stove construction projects in Nepal as a volunteer. At the same time, she worked for many years in the field of stove construction techniques. She has a very broad expertise in this field and was

therefore a member of the EFA board for several years. Together with Dr. Daniel Leberger from the company Techno-Physik, also a board member of EFA, she had the idea to produce a kit of our Nepal stove consisting of many building blocks, comparable to a Lego model. The aim was to sell the kit to



Ofenmodell, zu bauen aus 37 Einzelteilen

stove manufacturers so that they could give it to their customers and thus support the projects of Ofenmacher to a broader audience.

Dr. Leberger had a great idea to get the stove building industry on board. The company Hagos, which has donated to us Ofenmacher both in previous years and currently for the project in Ethiopia, organized a trade fair in April this year to which many stove and fireplace makers are invited. Dr. Leberger got Mr. Eichel from the company Hagos on board and they decided to organize a competition at the booth of the company Techno-Physik under the motto, "Crafting for a good purpose". The task was to assemble a Nepalese stove as quickly as possible from 37 individual parts. Many of them raced against the clock, but most of them were family members who took part in the competition.

Despite the lower number of visitors due to the pandemic, the rush was great and 342 kits were sold. Per kit 15 € go to the Ofenmacher for the stove construction in Nepal, so that we received a check for 5.500€ (Techno-Physik rounded up the amount) from Dr. Leberger and Mr. Eichel in Salzburg. Michaela Waldecker received the check. Without her, the whole campaign would never have got off the ground.

We would like to express our sincere thanks for the commitment of everyone involved in this campaign. Who could have imagined that "handicrafts for a good purpose" could achieve such an outstanding result? In the end, it is what has been achieved that counts and the construction of another 500 stoves in Nepal is financially assured.

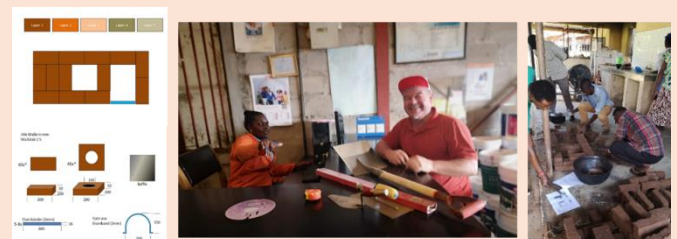
Theo Melcher

Stove building campaign Uganda

A cooperation of Traugott Binder with the Ofenmacher

When Traugott Binder visited Uganda for the first time through his contacts with the "Vision for Africa" organization and saw the living conditions, he understood intuitively that he had to help here. As a successful master craftsman and entrepreneur in stove construction, he looked for and found a way to improve the quality of life for the local people by cooperating with us Ofenmacher. After visiting Traugott Binder once in his factory in Herrenberg-Gültstein, we decided to start a joint project northeast of Kampala.

The initial idea in this "cooperative franchise process" was to support the planning of the first stove construction project in Uganda by providing advice and stove construction documentation from our side, to accompany on site and, where necessary, to clarify questions that arose. With the support of his new apprentice, Ali Saidy, a first prototype for Uganda was built in Gültstein and found to be good.



First step: Exchange of documents and training of 14 AIDS orphans / students as stove builders (from the organization "Vision for Africa").

With this transfer of know-how for the construction of smoke-free mud stoves of the "Nepal brick stove" type and the appropriate advice, Traugott Binder then tackled his stove project shirt-sleeved and full of enthusiasm.

Active for our Association

In a first step, 14 AIDS orphans from the "Vision for Africa" organization were trained on site to become stove builders and then employed to build stoves in various households. The activities were thus all carried out independently by Team Binder and the participants from the "Vision for Africa" organization.



Preparation and production of bricks and building elements for the construction of the first stoves by the trained students (example: pottery school).

The project is enthusiastically welcomed by local residents, who not only want to own such a stove, but also want to get hands-on with it. The newly trained stove builders are happy to do so and have built 15 stoves to date. In this context, Mr. Binder has also planned an "Association for Uganda", in order to further engage himself socially for this and other projects.

Time and just again, he travels to Uganda with his helpers to provide help for self-support for the poorest. He is currently in the process of setting up a stove academy there.

For this purpose, he is looking for sponsors among manufacturers and customers of his company and through various channels, who will continue to support the social commitment in Uganda actively and also financially. In the spirit of helping people to

Die Ofenmacher e. V.

help themselves, young Africans there are then to be trained further in the craft of stove building.



Independently construction of further mud stoves by local stove builders and renewed visit of Team Binder in Uganda to follow up on the activities.

Traugott Binder's long-term objective is to train young people in the crafts so that as many households as possible have a warming stove or a smoke-free stove, which poses much less danger than an open fire, for example

The benefits and advantages of smoke-free stoves are exactly the same in Uganda: less smoke exposure in the homes, small children do not burn themselves so easily, and the consumption of wood is reduced by up to 50 percent and thus also the emission of pollutants. We will continue to support the project in this regard.

Matthias Warmedinger

A key employee in Nepal

Bel Bahadur Tamang

Bahadur means translated "the strong one" and that is what he is. He has been working as a stove builder since the beginning of the stove building project, even before the founding of Ofenmacher e. V. and Swastha Chulo Nepal.

Bel Bahadur will turn 58 this year, is married and has three grown-up children, two sons and a daughter. He and his wife live together with their younger son and daughter-in-law and hope to have grandchildren soon..

He is actually a farmer, but has only little land of his own, so that the income from this agriculture was always very scarce to finance the livelihood and also the school and education for the children.

Already in 2003 Bel Bahadur received training as a stove builder for simple mud stoves. At that time there was the Danish-Nepalese Energy Sector Assistance Program (ESAP) in Nepal, which offered the training. His work began under difficult conditions.

The expected income however failed to come, because among neighbors and relatives one simply does not pay anything, or the farmers in the village simply did not have any cash money available. When he came into contact with Christa Drigalla, he had already installed about 3,000 stoves in the surrounding villages. He was now very experienced, had completed some additional training and had permission to work all over the country.



Bel Bahadur with a stove model

Together with an engineer, he also taught students at the Kathmandu University of Technology practical stove construction. This led to further development of canteen stoves. Bel Bahadur has installed several of these large stoves in schools or barracks and even in the police station of Sankhu.

Bel Bahadur has been part of the organization since the beginning of the stove construction project in 2005. He was hired as coordinator in 2011 when Swastha Chulo Nepal (SCN) was founded and received a regular salary. Today he is responsible for the entire eastern part of the country and regularly visits the stove building areas of Dholakha, Ramechhap and Kavre by motorcycle. He is the contact person for many of our stove builders and regularly checks the quality of the built stoves on site.

With additional qualifications, he also became a trainer for stove builders and has now been our most stable pillar in the project for years. For trainings he is always ready to take over the practical part, no matter where it takes place. Especially in the trainings for beginners his qualification and his experience is shown.



Ofenbauer unterwegs

So he could also be recruited for the initial training in Kenya in Africa. Together with Khedar Silwal, he traveled to Nairobi at that time (2013), met Frank Dengler and Katharina Dworschak there to organize the first stove-building training at the Ol Pejeta Wildlife Resort. That was a very special experience for him.

Active for our Association



Khedar and Bel Bahadur – Departure to Africa

With the monthly earnings, the family was able to provide their children with a good education. One of the sons also worked for a while in stove construction. Bel Bahadur's home village of Naldum was severely affected by the earthquake in 2015 and his house was also damaged. With the help of the government and his regular salary, he has been able to build a new modern house for himself and his family, which he proudly shows to his guests.



In front of the new earthquake proof house

Since 2019, all our employees have been registered in the newly established SSF, the Social Security Fund, the new social insurance of Nepal. Bel Bahadur and his family benefited from this, because in the second wave of Covid-19 infections, Bel Bahadur and his wife were infected with the dangerous virus and fell seriously ill. Both had to be hospitalized at Dulikhel Hospital. Mrs. Tamang was soon better, while Bel Bahadur had to stay in the hospital for four weeks and could only recover slowly. Since SSF also includes health insurance, at least part of

Die Ofenmacher e. V.

the costs could be reimbursed. In the meantime, he has regained his strength and is once again traveling to the most remote project areas in his area of responsibility.



With his wife at SCN office

A farmer with little school education became a self-confident coordinator in our project and we call him the cornerstone of stove construction in Nepal.

Christa Drigalla

Chickens donate for stoves

Support stove construction from farm Haby

An unexpected support for the stove construction in Nepal came from the farm animal Ark Farm Haby in Schleswig-Holstein. On the internet page of the farm you can read that the chickens got the order to work for the Nepal project. They refused because they were employed according to German labor law. Thereupon a meeting was called, where the chickens were assured that they could continue to scratch in German soil and also lay their eggs in Germany, only the money from the egg sales should help finance the mud ovens in Nepal.

This interesting story caught our attention and we started to investigate how this connection might have been established..

While waiting for a hand operation in the surgery of Dr. Barbara Schroer in Kiel, organic farmers Ute and Peter Furck saw a short film about stove construction in Nepal and the Chulo project, which aims to prevent cooking on open fires. "Really impressed we were and from then on we had the idea to support this project," the pair report. That's how the chickens came into play. In the future, part of the egg sales was to be donated to the mud stove project in faraway Nepal. No sooner said than done!

In the meantime, the chickens from the Haby farm could greet the fellows in Nepal, photos were sent back and forth. We thank the Haby farm for this great idea and greet them with the Nepalese "Kukurika" (as the roosters crow there).

Christa Drigalla



Chickens of a species in danger of extinction



Chief in Nepal sends greetings to Germany

Financial Report 2022

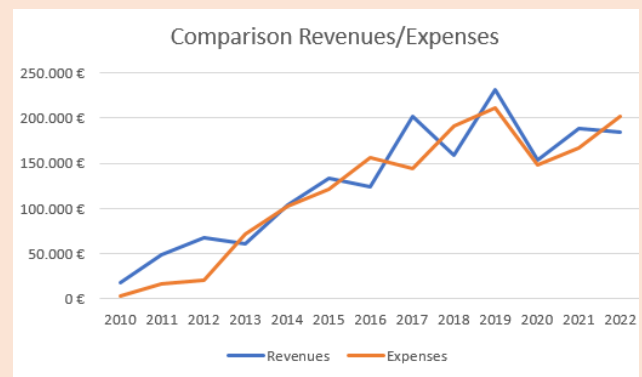
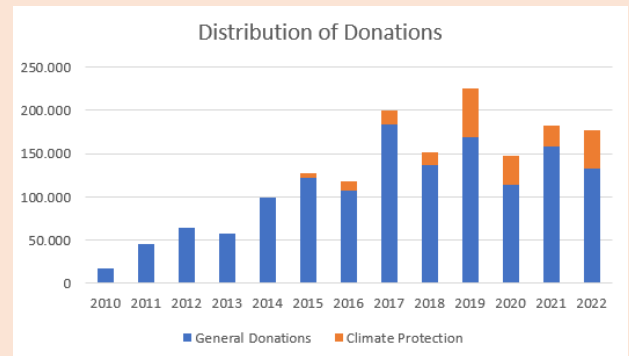
As always, a number of important aspects can be extracted from the association's finances for the past year. Some of these only concern the past year, while others are, in my view, the beginning of a new trend. Completely independent of the financial effects, I am very pleased that after the rather difficult years in our project countries due to the pandemic, Corona is no longer proving to be a brake. The opposite is the case, especially in Nepal, where stove construction continues to pick up. In Ethiopia, we have recorded a plus, although our project in Si-mien Mountains continues to be suspended due to the warlike riots. Remarkable, in my opinion. Our defensive calculation of the ratio of income and expenses predicted a shortfall of about 50,000 € for 2022. Things have turned out better than expected. The annual financial statements show a deficit of only €17,893. Let's take a look at the details.

Revenues:

At €184,031, total income was around €4,800 lower than in the previous year (- 2.55 percent). More interesting than this comparatively small deviation is a look at the composition of donations for stove construction and donations for climate protection. Here, there was a clear shift in the direction of CO2 offsetting. While stove construction donations declined by more than €25,000, climate protection donations increased by more than €20,000. This clearly shows that more people are traveling again. We believe that climate protection donations will become an increasingly important factor in our income.

The "travel effect" is also noticeable with regard to donations for expenditures, as they have increased more than 5 times (3,380 €). Expense donations are donations that do not actually provide the association with any money transfers, but where the donors abstain from claiming expenses and receive a donation receipt in order to be able to claim their expenses as tax deductible. We as Ofenmacher could again travel to our target areas.

Membership fees increased slightly by just over 200 € (6.815 €). The word "investment return" remained last year a rather antiquarian term. For an often six-digit balance on our investment account we received a whole 6 € over the year.



Expenses:

Just under €201,925, that was the amount of total expenditures in 2022, it was a little over €34,500 more than the year before (€162,000). As already noted at the beginning, this has mainly to do with the higher stove construction figures in Nepal. There, 36,000 € more have been spent than in 2021. Monitoring has still not taken place. In Ethiopia, our expenditures increased by € 2,000 to € 32,000. The figure in Simien Mountains remains at zero. After the departure of the previous project coordinator in Kenya, there was a change in personnel at Ol Pejeta, and virtually no stove construction took place. Accordingly, our expenditures there also dropped to zero.

Climate protection expenses mean fees to the Gold Standard organization. At €3,862, they were just over €750 higher than before.

The figures for administrative costs (€ 3,552) and bank charges (€ 510) correlate to a large extent with the level of revenues and expenses. Bank charges actually decreased slightly by € 26, while administrative costs increased by just over € 800. Responsible for this are in particular the printing of annual reports (719 €), fees for a software (227 €) and about 300 € more in fees for donation advertising. It is already pleasing that the costs for the software will be completely eliminated in the future.



Honorary hours:

2021: 3053
2022: 3100

Conclusion:

Expenditure exceeded €200,000 for only the second time in our history. And this is only the fourth time in thirteen years that we have closed a year with a deficit. But that is just as normal as it is expected. I would therefore like to draw attention to one thing in particular:

Adding administrative costs and bank charges gives the proportion of our expenses required to calculate the administrative expense ratio. This ratio in 2021 was 1.96 percent, and in the past year 2022 it has now risen by 0.05 percent to 2.01 percent. Now I could give you double-digit inflation rates for the past year or the rates of price increases for energy costs, but I don't have to. You will easily notice that a 0.05 percent increase is hardly more than a breath of fresh air. We can continue to be very proud of our rate. Because it means that administrative costs continue to be covered in full by membership fees and that 100 percent of donations go where they are supposed to go.

Finally, a brief outlook on developments in 2023. We have planned very defensively and, based on these estimates, are assuming a deficit of around €45,000. But secretly we already assume that it should be less. The new cooperation with Wikinger Reisen should mean more income for climate protection, but it must first bring the first visible changes in order to be able to calculate them better. That's why we've approached it so cautiously. But I am already excited about what I can present to you in this regard in the coming year.

Robert Pfeffer

Warm thanks on behalf of 65,000 people you enabled to live in a safe and healthy home in 2022!

Non-profit association "Die Ofenmacher e. V."

1. Chairman: Dr. Frank Dengler
2. Chairman: Matthias Warmedinger
Treasurer: Robert Pfeffer
Assessor: Theo Melcher
Assessor: Dr. Maxim Messerer

The association "Die Ofenmacher e. V.", Munich, is acknowledged by the notification of the fiscal authorities Munich of 16.10.2020 as exclusively and directly serving tax-privileged charitable and non-profit purposes in the sense of §§ 51 ff. AO.

Account for Donations:

Die Ofenmacher e. V.,
IBAN: DE88 8306 5408 0004 0117 40
BIC: GENODEF1SLR, Deutsche Skatbank

For climate compensation please enter the keyword:
Climate protection or the number of tons of CO2!