

How do you know you are a leader and go-to information source? When the World Health Organization (WHO) reaches out to you for advice. Established as the United Nations' official health agency, the WHO's mission is to promote health, keep the world safe, and serve the vulnerable. Working through offices in more than 150 countries, the WHO staff work side by side with governments and other partners to ensure the highest attainable level of health for all people.

True to their mission, the World Health Organization is creating a database of government policies that support clean cooking – and they knew to reach out to Solar Cookers International as an expert.

You and SCI, with our strong background in advocating for solar cooking, were ready to help inform their work. And with our strong network of collaborators and Global Advisors that you help support, we were able to provide even more regionally specific information.

The World Health Organization's database will be a powerful resource because it is what future government leaders will go to when they are looking to create more policies of their own that are supportive of clean solar cooking. This is creating a positive ripple effect to increase knowledge of, access to, and support for solar cooking for many years. Thank you for supporting SCI so we can be there to answer when the WHO calls.

Because of you, SCI continues to bring hope to over 300 people in Nepal.

You are continuing to bring vital solar cooking resources and education to the people of Nepal with Solar Cookers International. Approximately 300 people in especially vulnerable groups now have access to solar cookers, solar dryers, heat retention boxes, water pasteurization, safety equipment, and training, thanks to your support.



These communities include orphans, students, women leaders, elderly needing care, women-headed households, farmers, spiritual centers, a sustainability lab, a pollution control committee, etc. in Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Bhaktapur, Kavre, Okhaldhunga, and Solukhumbu districts.

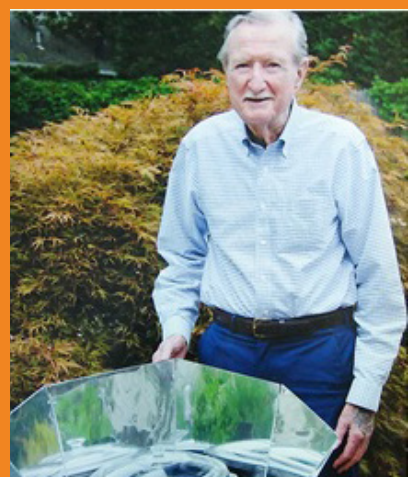
Having access to solar cooking technology has been especially important as people are experiencing a lack of transportation; a short supply of consumer goods; price hikes; high taxes; and challenges with medical facilities, water supply, and electricity as a result of the coronavirus lockdown. By empowering these communities with access to, and knowledge of, solar cooking, they are more prepared and resilient to deal with any current and future challenges.



Photo credit (front page and envelopes): Sanu Kaji Shrestha (2021)

Thank you for advocating with SCI at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women

With your support and dedication, Solar Cookers International advocated for solar cooking at this year's virtual United Nations Non-Governmental Organization Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) Forum. CSW is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. Solar cooking is a powerful solution for women's health and empowerment and because of you, SCI is able to spread this important message around the world. Read what some of our guest speakers had to say! To watch a video recording of the event please visit www.solarcookers.org/about/blog/CSW65.



This event was dedicated in honor of the late Dar Curtis, a tireless solar cooking advocate.

"There are unfortunately still 2.8 billion people who lack access to clean fuels and technologies around the world." Ms. Lewis went on to cite that in 2018 in Sub-Saharan Africa, only 15% of the population had access to clean fuels and technologies for cooking.

- Jessica Lewis, World Health Organization



"I have been associated with SCI for the last 15 years. SCI helped with the funding of the solar cookers in India, and it took off. Women saved their energy. They didn't have to go and walk long miles. The women told us that their cookers had been saving their dignity. Rapes and sexual abuse used to take place when they would walk miles and miles to get firewood. Some women told us that they had miscarriages when they walked in their advanced stage of pregnancy due to carrying heavy loads of wood... They brought down the number of waterborne diseases and also brought down the rate of infant and female mortality."

- Dr. Mrs. Janak Palta McGilligan, SCI Global Advisor

"Solar cooking usually has a positive impact on women's empowerment. The fact that it's innovative and different makes other members of the family interested in participating in cooking tasks which means that there is a little bit more free time and autonomy for women."

- Rocío Maldonado, SCI Global Advisor



"SCI is the main promoter of solar cooking all around the world. It's been a great partnership for me and is helping me with my goal of having a solar cooker in every Haitian household. Sunlight is one of Haiti's biggest resources."

- Rose Bazile, SCI Global Advisor

"Lots of people are still cooking with biomass fuels and lots of people are dying each year from household air pollution. Children particularly are sensitive to this small particulate matter (PM) and they are dying from pneumonia. One of the things that's in the smoke from cooking is PM 2.5. This stuff is dangerous. It doesn't just go sit and clog up your lungs, this actually can circulate in your blood and get [into] your entire body because it's so small. This is one of the long-run dangerous impacts."

- Dr. Peg Barratt, SCI Board Member



"Women have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic because it increases existing inequalities and sets back achievements of development projects. Women are at increased risk due to the continual use of firewood for cooking that may weaken their respiratory system. There is tremendous interest and determination in adopting solar cooking technology. At SCI, we believe we can transform cooking into an opportunity for improving women's health by sending children to school, generating income and becoming an entrepreneur. Solar cooking as a clean energy solution should be at the center of policy efforts to achieve sustainable development."

- Ernestina Williams, SCI Representative to the United Nations

A Simple Way to Make a Difference

Thank you to those who completed the SCI Supporter Survey. If you have not completed the survey, you can access the online version here: <https://bit.ly/3gdjjVi>. This survey allows us to gain insight into what part of our work is most important to you, our generous supporters! **56% of you said that SCI's advocacy work** is one of the main reasons you choose to support SCI.

As many of you know, SCI uses its special consultative status at the United Nations to advocate for the use of solar cookers worldwide, effectively bringing them to the world's most vulnerable populations.

Additionally, survey results show many of you believe that SCI's work in reducing the risk of exposure to harmful cooking smoke as well as **reducing the need for children to gather cooking fuel** are extremely important. These are just two of the many reasons why solar cooking is a simple and effective solution that can positively impact women, children, and families around the world. Thank you for being a part of the community that is bringing solar cooking to a broader audience.

Many of you also expressed interest in joining SCI's Legacy Circle. Legacy giving is a way to support the mission of SCI for generations to come by planning for an after-life gift. There are many ways you can become a part of SCI's Legacy Circle that make sense for your particular interest and financial situation! Our Legacy Circle consists of supporters with a broad spectrum of interest and involvement with SCI.



"I believe it is urgently essential for solar cookers to be disseminated everywhere as they have a huge impact on climate crises: no pollution, no deforestation, reduction of sexual assault on women going further and further away to hunt for fuel. The fact is that EVERYTHING CAN BE COOKED UNDER THE SUN!"

– Mary Frank

Photo credit: Max Treitler (2021)

Thank you to **The Mary Frank Media Fund** for sponsoring this newsletter. Please contact SCI's Development Manager Morgan Stonefelt at donor.relations@solarcookers.org or at +1 916.455.4499 to learn more about special sponsorship and other giving opportunities.

One such Legacy Circle member is the incredible activist, esteemed artist, and experienced solar cook, Mary Frank. Mary proudly supports SCI because she believes solar cooking is the solution to many of the problems humans face today. She believes solar cookers are a revolutionary yet simple technology and wants her support of solar cooking to be utilized for years to come through her legacy gift. Mary continues to build the solar cooking movement by taking every opportunity to raise awareness and share resources to educate people.

You can demonstrate your support for the success of future generations and solar cooking by becoming a member of SCI's Legacy Circle. Because Mary understands how urgent and important these issues are, she hopes you will make a commitment to join her in SCI's Legacy Circle today.

Are you interested in learning more about joining Mary in SCI's Legacy Circle? Please visit www.solarcookers.org/donate/legacygiving and/or contact SCI's Development Manager Morgan Stonefelt at donor.relations@solarcookers.org or at +1 916.455.4499.



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