



# YOUR IMPACT AROUND THE WORLD

ANNUAL REPORT  
2023



**Dr. Shishpal Rawat**  
SCI Board President



**Caitlyn Hughes**  
SCI Executive Director

## Letter From the Board President and Executive Director

It's incredible how forest fires, happening thousands of miles away, impact our air quality, health, and ability to go outside or enjoy our lives. Now imagine how smoke like that affects someone cooking over an open fire every day.

It's heartbreaking to think that **1 in 3 people** worldwide, mostly women and children, are living this way, and about **3.2 million people are dying yearly** from illnesses attributable to household air pollution. The time to act is now. Solar cooking reduces risks such as indoor air pollution, deforestation, and respiratory disease. It increases energy independence, food stability, health, and safety.

With your support, solar cooking eliminates indoor air pollution, reducing overall outdoor air pollution. This improves the air that we all breathe, and for this, we truly thank our supporters.

Best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Shishpal Rawat".

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Caitlyn Hughes".

# **SCI SHARES YOUR VOICE AT THE WORLD STAGE**



Thanks to your generous support, SCI has been able to continue its advocacy work on behalf of the global solar cooking sector, sharing the stories and experiences of solar cooks around the world and advocating for the continued expansion of solar cooking programs.

As a host of virtual events during the United Nations High-level Political Forum and the Commission on the Status of Women, SCI was honored to highlight the voices of collaborators and share information from the solar cooking community. At the annual United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, SCI met with government leaders, academics, and project implementers, pointing out how solar cooking can help the world achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.



A great example of SCI's advocacy work in action comes from Esther Wang'ombe, who works for the Ministry of Energy in Kenya. SCI and Esther first met at COP26 in Glasgow in 2021. One year later, Esther agreed to be a guest speaker at SCI's COP27 side event, contributing a powerful call to action for more solar cooking in Kenya. Collaborations such as this are essential for making your support and impact go even further.

*"This is the tradition in our country [Kenya], that cooking, and household responsibilities, are women's and girls' responsibilities. These are the people who go to look for firewood, who buy firewood... whether you have clean energy or dirty energy, a household has to have food on the table each day. There is a need to focus on other forms of energy to reduce harvesting of fuelwood. Solar cooking requires no fuel and reduces demand on firewood. In Kenya, this abundant solar energy, it's free, it's all over the country, so why not take advantage of it and use solar cookers for cooking?"*



-Esther Wang'ombe, OGW, Senior Deputy Director,  
Renewable Energy, Kenya Ministry of Energy,  
speaking at SCI's COP27 side event.

This year marks an important milestone to measure the world's progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with 2023 marking the halfway point between when the SDGs were first agreed to by world leaders in 2015 and when the world has agreed to achieve these goals in 2030.

While progress has been made, the goal of universal access to clean cooking by 2030 remains off track, with over **2.3 billion people around the world still cooking over open fires**. That's why SCI continues to advocate for country policymakers to include clear targets for clean cooking in their national plans to recognize this urgent need and strengthen support.

Top right photo: SCI staff meet with representatives of the Central African Republic at COP27. Bottom right photo: Dr. Hans André Lohayo Djamba of the Democratic Republic of Congo, joins an SCI COP27 press conference.



# **EMPOWERING LEADERS IN KAKUMA REFUGEE CAMP, KENYA**



Thanks to you, solar cooking is making a significant difference at Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya - particularly for a person living with a disability like Grace.\*

Through SCI's program with Ecomandate Foundation, Grace was a previous recipient of a solar cooker, which changed her life dramatically. Constantly coughing and battling health issues due to cooking over an open fire day to day, Grace was ecstatic to receive a solar cooker, knowing her quality of life would greatly improve. Wanting to share the impact with others at the camp, Grace was inspired to share the good news of solar cooking.

She accepted an invitation to be a member of the training team for this year's cycle of work at Kakuma. In the bottom right photo, Grace introduces herself to some of the new participants before leading a solar cooking training session.



Grace is a model solar cooking champion and an example of a crucial part of a successful solar cooking initiative.

With SCI, you have empowered 438 more refugees with 60 locally constructed solar ovens, bringing the total number of refugees empowered to 2,346 and solar cookers to 294 since 2018.

With your support, we are working to empower more women like Grace in Kakuma and all over the world with access to solar cooking.



*“On behalf of the beneficiaries, I wish to thank the SCI Family, and all concerned parties for making this (distributing solar cookers) possible. It is not only saving lives but also giving beneficiaries a reason to wake up and live. I will forever be grateful for such an opportunity as this. Long live this collaboration.”*

**-Wilkinson Mwenda,  
Ecomandate Foundation**

\*Personal details of the people we serve have been protected for their privacy.

# **SCI SOLAR COOKING TESTING PROGRAM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI**

During SCI's Performance Evaluation Process (PEP) implementation, SCI collaborated with staff at the University of Nairobi Stove Testing Center and provided equipment and training for testing solar cookers. This year, the University of Nairobi Stove Testing Center team completed PEP testing of both the Standard-size ULOG and Family-size ULOG solar box ovens.

ULOG is an open-source design, and the PEP-tested ULOG solar box ovens were manufactured by Ecomandate Foundation and are representative of those deployed in the ongoing solar cooking initiative at Kakuma Refugee Camp. To watch Professor Jacob Kithinji touring the PEP testing site at the University of Nairobi, visit [www.youtube.com/watch?v=orJc8LUf6t8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=orJc8LUf6t8).



## **SCI's Performance Evaluation Process:**

- Harmonizes with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO)
- Provides a single measure of thermal performance: the Standard Cooking Power in watts
- Automates unbiased, scientific, and replicable testing methods
- Helps consumers make informed decisions
- Strengthens solar-cooking sector credibility



# SCI CONTINUES TO PROVIDE ESSENTIAL RESOURCES IN NEPAL

SCI partnered with the Foundation for Sustainable Technologies (FoST) to implement a solar cooking project that focuses on fragile communities who depend on polluting fuels, such as firewood or imported gas, and unreliable supply chains.

Participants receive both the tools and the education they need to make solar cooking a regular part of their cooking routine.

Not only are people able to save time and money in the short term, but they are also better positioned to weather crises like earthquakes, floods, COVID-19, and supply chain disruptions. Thanks to the help of SCI supporters, families are set up for success and a lifetime of solar cooking delicious Nepalese meals.



# INCREASING RESILIENCE THROUGH INNOVATIVE AND SUSTAINABLE IMPROVEMENT OF FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS IN YEMEN



This year, SCI expanded its global presence, recognition, and relevance through building capacity for solar cooking and drying in Yemen.

*“I would also like to thank you warmly for the great support SCI has provided to DKH and its partner NMO (Nahda Makers Organization) in Yemen and the valuable contribution of SCI’s work towards the achievement of the key project goals – improving food security and increasing resilience of coastal communities in Yemen.”*

-Samuel Zewdu, DKH  
(Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe)

This impact is vital in a country experiencing one of the world's worst humanitarian crises, yet with plentiful solar energy.

Thanks to you, SCI was able to share best practices and knowledge to support the goal of empowering people with 100 solar cookers, 70 household solar dryers, and 6 communal solar dryers.

The initiative aims to reduce risks such as gender-based violence and risks from inhaling toxic smoke and burns from open fire. It aims to create additional employment and income-earning opportunities, supporting sustainability and scalability of impact.



Financed by:



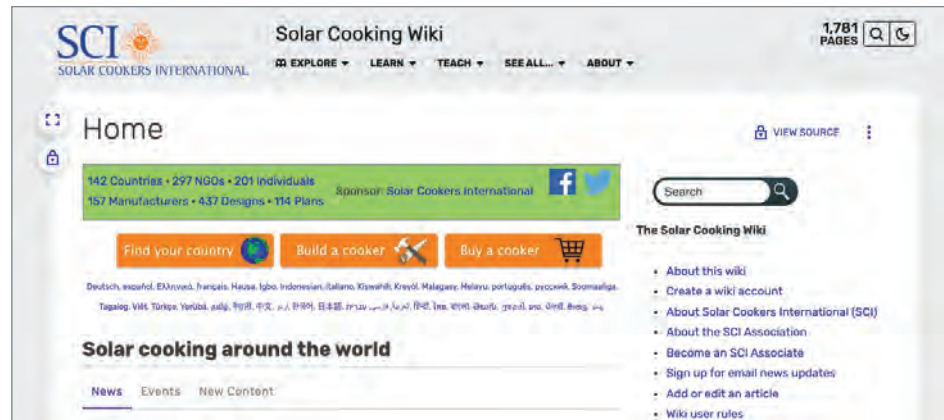
Implemented by:





**THE SOLAR  
COOKING WIKI  
BRINGS VITAL  
INFORMATION  
TO THE WORLD**

The Solar Cooking Wiki ([www.solarcooking.org](http://www.solarcooking.org)) is a crucial resource, offering solar cooking news and information from 142 countries worldwide. As the most extensive online solar cooking database, it has received over 358,000 page visits this year and is accessible in over 35 languages, making it accessible to a diverse global audience. This valuable tool plays a significant role in promoting the positive impacts of solar cooking, furthering its adoption across the world.



*"I appreciate the exposure the SCI Wiki has provided highlighting these (solar cooking) activities."*

-Elie Joseph studied at the Université Notre-Dame d'Haïti and teaches STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) program hands-on classes in Hinche, Haiti.



*"The SCI Wiki allowed me to find information on solar cooker design, which helped to perfect details of my two oven designs... The site has provided a way for the Castelfranco Solar Cooking Center to be known to the general public."*

-Davide Milani, founder of a solar cooking center in Castelfranco Veneto, Italy. The center offers online theoretical courses on solar cooking, support, and advice at no expense.

*"The SCI Wiki is indispensable for my on-going projects, primarily my series on the most notable designers, promoters and power users of solar cookers in the world. I would not have known about the existence of many of my series guests without the Wiki. I often refer people to a Wiki reference covering the topic of our interview discussions."*

-Luther Krueger manages a large variety of solar cookers at his Big Blue Sun Museum of Solar Cooking in Minneapolis, Minnesota, United States.



**WORK AT SCI IS  
ONLY POSSIBLE  
WITH SUPPORTERS  
LIKE YOU.  
TOGETHER, WE  
ARE MAKING A  
DIFFERENCE IN  
THE LIVES OF  
PEOPLE AROUND  
THE WORLD.**

*Thank you!*

**A special thanks to our generous funders:\***

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*\*Funding organizations who generously gave \$10,000 or more*

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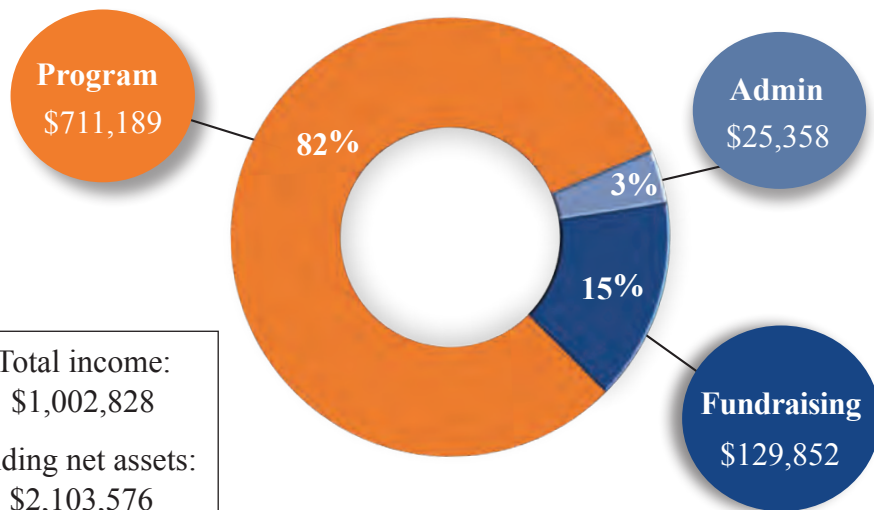
All of SCI's supporters including YOU!



# Your Impact with SCI

Fiscal Year (FY) = 7/1/2022 - 6/30/2023

## Expenses:



Total income:  
\$1,002,828

Ending net assets:  
\$2,103,576

## Board of Directors

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The mission of Solar Cookers International is to improve human health, economic well-being, women's empowerment, and the environment by promoting climate-friendly solar cooking for vulnerable populations worldwide.

Thank you, Eriksen Translation,  
for supporting clean cooking  
efforts around the world.



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### Highest Rating 7 Years in a Row

Solar Cookers International consistently receives the highest rating from charity rating organizations including Charity Navigator, GuideStar, and the Better Business Bureau.



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*Thank you!*

