

SCI
SOLAR COOKERS INTERNATIONAL

# ANNUAL REPORT 2026

## Your Impact on People and the Planet

# Letter From the Board Chair and Executive Director

This year, more than ever, has shown how important it is for each of us to live, speak, and support our values. We cannot rely on anyone else or any other entity to do so.

We've seen people in Kakuma Refugee Camp, who have already faced innumerable challenges in their lives, have the very basic necessities like food rations stripped away. And this is while they are stepping up and caring for the most vulnerable in their communities, including dozens of orphans.

This is why your support for life-saving solar cookers is so essential. Because of your values of conservation and love of humanity, you were able to lift up thousands of women and children in poverty, while keeping precious forests intact. Thank you for showing that you care.

Sincerely,
Emily Bacchini and Caitlyn Hughes



**Emily Bacchini**
SCI Board Chair




**Caitlyn Hughes**
SCI Executive Director

# SOLAR COOKERS AROUND THE WORLD

Solar Cookers International provides tools and resources that help people understand and adopt solar cooking around the world. These range from introductory guides to analyses of national climate policies to solar cooker performance testing.

One key resource is SCI's global solar cooker distribution map. To date, SCI has identified approximately **4.8 million solar cookers around the world**. If used at the same time, these could help **avoid an estimated 7.2 million metric tons of $CO_2$ emissions each year** and save countries millions of USD in avoided health and environmental costs.




**You can add your own solar cookers to the map,** see where solar cooking is happening, and help build the evidence leaders need to promote solar cooking at the household, community, and national level.

The map is just one way SCI turns data into shared knowledge and evidence-based action to advance solar cooking globally.

Visit: www.solarcookers.org/map-of-solar-cookers

# YOU HELPED DELIVER SOLAR COOKERS IN MALI

Together, SCI and our network of supporters are working to get more locally made solar cookstoves into households that can use sunlight to cook their meals. Fortunately, countries like Mali enjoy reliable access to sunlight for most of the year, making solar cooking an ideal solution. Working closely with our partners in Mali, over 2,400 people have access to solar cooking. That means health is improving—project **participants reported a 47% reduction in cooking-related respiratory and eye problems after receiving a solar cooker**.

Our program in Mali included both urban communities in Bamako and rural communities in Banamba. By understanding the cooking challenges that different communities face, SCI provides appropriate support that creates lasting change. Solar cooking technologies—including reflective panel solar cookers and solar box ovens in rural Banamba, solar-electric systems in urban Bamako, and parabolic solar cookers in both regions—were each utilized and adapted to local communities, reducing reliance on traditional wood and charcoal stoves.

In addition to improved health outcomes, **households reported spending 67% less on cooking fuel**. On average, this resulted in **$11.32 USD in savings per month**—equivalent to more than 32 hours of work at Mali's minimum wage. These savings can help cover school fees, more nutritious foods, and other household needs.





Solar cooking can be a transformative addition to a family's daily life. Noumousso, a merchant from Bamako, used to spend the equivalent of about $8.50 USD per week on wood and charcoal to cook food for herself and her 10 other family members. Now, **with a solar cooker that she uses on sunny days, she only spends about $3.00 USD per week on charcoal to complement her solar cooking—a 65% saving**. She is saving money and breathing cleaner air, thanks to her new solar cookstove and SCI's supporters like you that made our project possible.



"I have had this cooking equipment for a year, and it has greatly lightened my workload. Your space stays clean and you are not bothered by smoke."

*- Noumousso, SCI program participant*

For more information about SCI's ongoing collaboration in Mali, including a short video, visit www.solarcookers.org/programs-impact/cooking-program-at-mali.

# WITH YOUR HELP, FAMILIES IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC ENJOY SOLAR-COOKED MEALS

In the Central African Republic (CAR), 99% of the population relies on wood, charcoal, and other polluting fuels for cooking. Working closely with the Ministry of Environment and the University of Bangui, SCI's collaboration supported local production and distribution of solar cookstoves in four communities, reaching over 1,700 people. Among households using their solar cookers at least three times/week, wood and charcoal consumption decreased by 35%. Less fuel burned means less smoky kitchens: **households in CAR also reported a 43% reduction in health problems after receiving a solar cookstove.**

Thanks to our supporters and the positive results over the past year, SCI is working with our partners in the CAR to chart a path to expand solar cooking to meet the scale of the challenge ahead.





By working with the University of Bangui, SCI included a significant role for youth participation in the Central African Republic. Students from the Faculty of Sciences joined training sessions preparing them for a role in data collection, using SCI's Adoption and Impact surveys. Students also supported community training events and helped shape plans for successfully introducing solar cooking to communities that have only cooked with wood and charcoal in the past.

By involving youth throughout SCI's project in the CAR, these students are learning valuable skills while also helping to transform expectations around cooking in their own communities. Youth are often a critical driving force for positive change, and our youth champions from the Central African Republic are leading a solar cooking movement that can improve lives now and long into the future.

For more information about SCI's project in the Central African Republic, visit www.solarcookers.org/programs-impact/cooking-program-at-central-african-republic.



# SOLAR COOKERS TRANSFORM LIFE FOR REFUGEE FAMILIES

International media has documented vast cuts to humanitarian aid during the past year. Those funding cuts have impacted the lives of refugees at Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya, by further stressing the availability of food and inflating cooking fuel costs for refugee families.

Thanks to your support, SCI and its Kenyan partner Eco-Impact Hub CBO delivered more solar box ovens last year than ever before to refugees at Kakuma Refugee Camp. Once refugee families started solar cooking, they reported **saving an average of $163 USD per year** by reducing their need to purchase polluting fuels.

Refugee families also report that with a solar cooker they no longer must trade their food for cooking fuel. This means families can make their food go further, improving access to adequate nutrition for themselves and for orphans. On average, every family that started solar cooking this year also feeds an orphan.



# VOICES FROM KAKUMA: SOLAR COOKING IS UPLIFTING FAMILY LIFE

**For mothers like Sarah, Hellen, and Hasidi, solar cooking has become much more than a way to prepare meals**—it has become a source of financial relief, safety, health, and hope.

All three women said solar cookers have sharply reduced their reliance on charcoal and firewood, allowing them to spend more on food, school supplies, and other essentials for their children and grandchildren.

**Hellen** emphasized that the cooker has eliminated dangerous trips to collect firewood, reducing the risk of violence and improving family safety, while also protecting household members from harmful smoke inhalation.

**Sarah** shared that the technology has relieved both the burden of gathering fuel and the cost of purchasing charcoal. And **Hasidi**, who cares for eight children and eight grandchildren, explained that the solar cooker has lightened the daily burden of feeding a large family, describing it as having "brought magic" to her household.

Together, **their stories demonstrate that donor-supported solar cooking delivers lasting impact** by reducing expenses, improving health and security, freeing time for other responsibilities, and strengthening the resilience and dignity of vulnerable refugee families.




For more information on SCI's program at Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya, visit: www.solarcookers.org/programs-impact/cooking-program-at-kenya.

# BRINGING SOLAR COOKING TO INTERNATIONAL FORUMS

Thanks to your support, SCI participated in major United Nations forums throughout the year, bringing solar cooking to the forefront of global conversations on gender equality, sustainable development, and climate action. At **the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP30)**, SCI brought solar cooking into the limelight as a proven climate solution.

Along with collaborators, SCI demonstrated how solar cooking can advance climate action and sustainable development, hosting two press conferences that highlighted locally led innovation and resilient solar cooking initiatives supported by the United Nations Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN). Your support also enabled SCI to participate in six side events focused on climate finance, gender-inclusive program design, and scalable clean cooking solutions. Furthermore, **a joint exhibit with the International Solar Energy Society (ISES)** introduced policymakers and









practitioners to SCI's programs including its Performance Evaluation Process (PEP), strengthening global partnerships and elevating solar cooking on the global climate agenda. SCI's COP30 participation was also featured by Radio France, bringing the benefits of solar cooking to an even larger audience.

At **the United Nations High-Level Political Forum (HLPF)**, SCI convened global experts to highlight solar cooking's role in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals. Speakers from Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL), the Global Youth Strategy on Air Pollution and Climate Health, and the International Relations Office for Vocational Training and Employment Exchange shared how solar cooking improves health, creates economic opportunities, reduces deforestation, and strengthens partnerships.

At **the United Nations NGO Commission on the Status of Women (CSW70)**, SCI hosted a virtual parallel event exploring how solar cooking empowers women and girls. Speakers from the CTCN, Mali, and Kenya highlighted how clean cooking reduces household air pollution, saves time spent collecting fuel, lowers household costs, and expands opportunities for education, livelihoods, and leadership. The discussion underscored solar cooking's role in advancing gender equality and climate justice.

Together, these engagements helped build momentum for solar cooking at the highest levels of global policy and gave greater visibility to the voices and innovations of solar cooking communities. **Your generosity helped SCI strengthen international partnerships and advance policies that expand access to clean cooking worldwide.**

Watch SCI at the UN HLPF 2025 and UN NGO CSW70 events: www.bit.ly/hlpf2025sci | www.bit.ly/csw70sci

# REACHING GLOBAL AUDIENCES

## Webinar: Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF)




SCI co-produced a webinar with OIF on solar cooking, solar drying, and integrated cooking solutions for sustainable employment for women and youth.




## Solar World Congress (SWC), Brazil

SCI highlights from International Solar Energy Society (ISES) SWC 2025 include presenting a poster, submitting a manuscript on best practices, presenting during a plenary session, and moderating a session on solar cooking.

## Africa Climate Week and Africa Climate Summit 2, Ethiopia

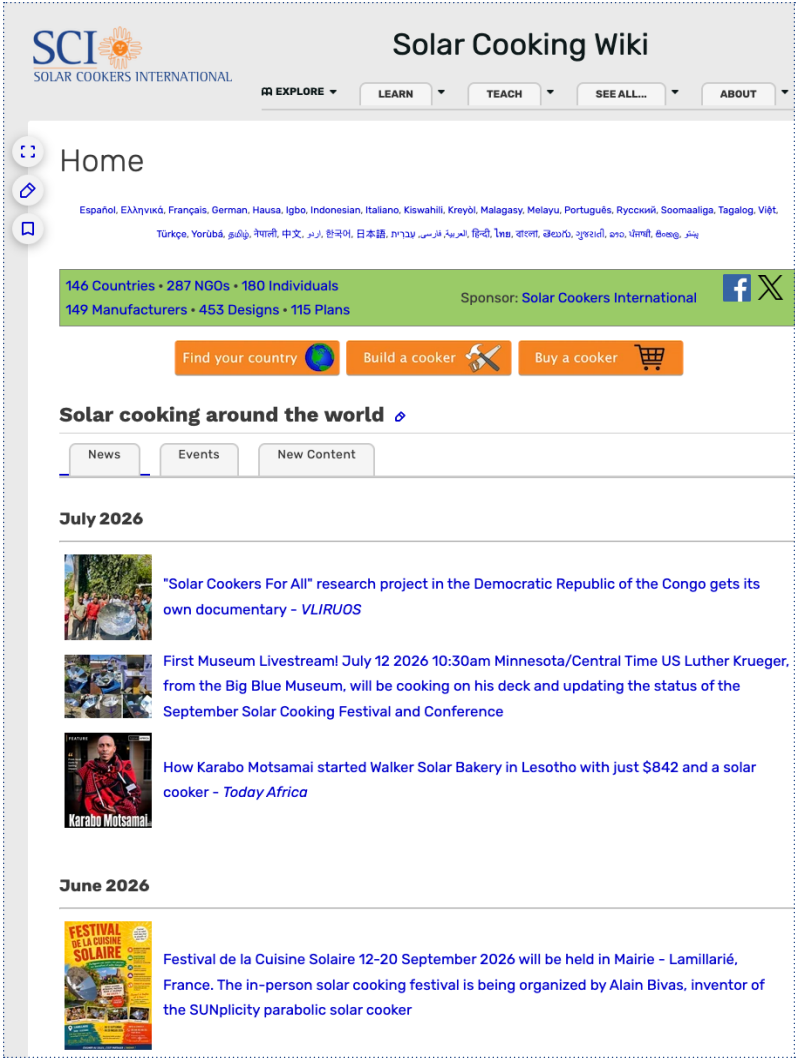
SCI was honored to participate in Africa Climate Week and the Africa Climate Summit 2. This important gathering brought together leaders, innovators, and organizations committed to advancing solutions for climate resilience across the continent.



# SOLAR COOKING WIKI: A POWERHOUSE OF INFO

The Solar Cooking Wiki, available at www.solarcooking.org, is a crucial resource, offering solar cooking news and information from 140+ countries worldwide. As the **most extensive online solar cooking database, it has received 242,888 page visits this year and is available in over 35 languages**, making it accessible to a diverse audience.

You help maintain the Wiki, provide the latest information on global solar cooking initiatives, and promote it across various communications channels. Moreover, the Wiki enables organizations worldwide to showcase their programs, share best practices, and attract potential collaborators and opportunities—helping scale proven solutions and accelerate the global transition to clean cooking with SCI as a leader and connector, thanks to you.



# OUR HEARTFELT GRATITUDE

Thank you for being a caring and compassionate person! Because of you, women's lives have been saved, kids are healthier, and our planet is greener.

**A Special Thanks to***

- Agua Fund, Inc.
- Anonymous
- Beth and Steven Bangert
- Donal and Brenda Brown
- Carol Anderson and Archer Christian
- Distracted Globe Foundation
- Marjorie and Jerry Fruin Charitable Fund
- Lisa and Larry Norman
- Paul Bechtner Foundation
- Peter W. Turnbull
- Sacramento Region Community Foundation
- The Morris and Alma Schapiro Fund
- The United Nations Environment Programme/ Climate Technology Centre and Network

**SCI Legacy Circle Member**
Jean Soost

*Funders who gave $10,000 or more

Want to know how you can meet the needs of women and forests far into the future?

**Name SCI as a beneficiary on your Donor Advised Fund or include SCI in your will or trust.**

For more information, ask Lynne at donor.relations@solarcookers.org.

"It is a privilege to give to SCI so that I can help women be safer. When someone cooks with solar, we all benefit."

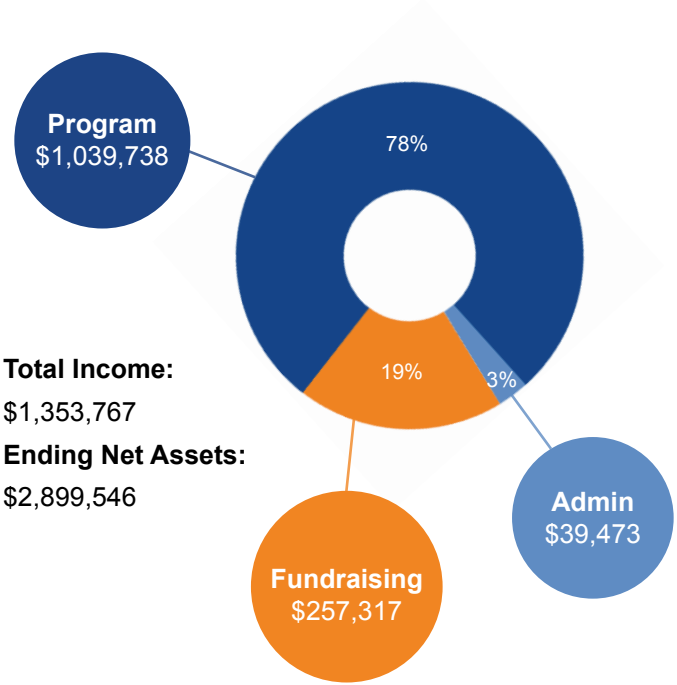
- Irene



# YOUR IMPACT WITH SCI

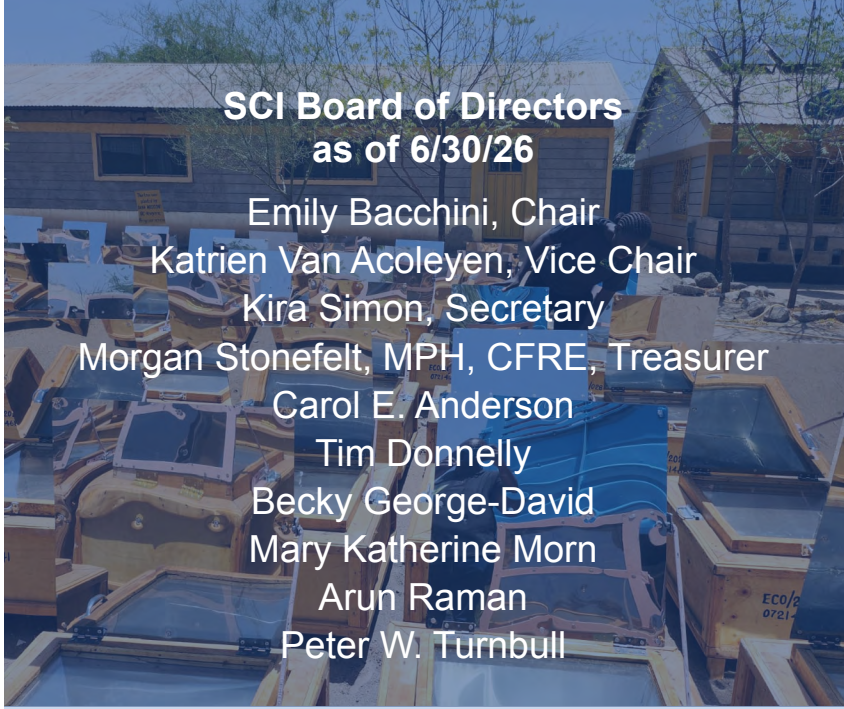
Fiscal Year (FY) = July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026

**Expenses**




**Total Income:**
$1,353,767

**Ending Net Assets:**
$2,899,546



## SCI Board of Directors as of 6/30/26

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SCI
SOLAR COOKERS INTERNATIONAL

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.

## Highest Rating for 10 Years in a Row

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

Charity Navigator ✦✦✦✦ FOUR-STAR

Platinum Transparency 2026 Candid.

CHARITY WATCH TOP-RATED

BBB ACCREDITED CHARITY give.org

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