

“Anagi” Stoves – Improving the Lives of IDPs and Protecting the Environment.

Cooking fuel is of importance to everyone in the world, but for Sri Lanka’s IDPs who have been uprooted from their homes firewood represents a critical need and a means to survive. At its height, IDP camps in the country’s North housed some 290,000 people, which put tremendous pressure on the surrounding environment. Since August 2009, although the process of their resettlement is ongoing, IDPs continue to need support from the international community.

Every day Yogeswary, an IDP in Menik Farm, cooks WFP food rations for her family of six. In the early morning she wakes up to begin her search for firewood; “Much of my day is spent in collecting firewood,” she says. “There are just so many of us. It is getting harder to find.”

WFP, recognizing the burden of firewood collection and the negative environmental impacts of over consumption of firewood, has decided to distribute fuel-efficient stoves to 50,000 IDP families. The locally produced stoves called Anagi, meaning precious or excellent, is a two pot single-piece clay stove designed to meet the cooking needs of a 6 person family. They have been purchased with support from the Government of Luxembourg, and are designed to suit the cooking habits in Sri Lanka. The stoves require less firewood than traditional models and as they are portable IDPs can transport them to their areas of resettlement. In addition the stoves have high combustion efficiency so there is a greater amount of heat produced and less smoke from the same amount of wood.

The unit cost of the stove including delivery to the camps is just over USD \$2. Many local small scale producers, mainly located in rural areas, have also benefited from this new initiative.

The stoves are already in use and have reduced the risk of fire in and around living quarters, while lessening the firewood collection burden on women. WFP also plans to carry out trainings for IDPs on stove construction as a possible means for income generation.

Yogeswary, expressed her gratitude to WFP saying “The cooking smoke doesn’t irritate my eyes and I have time to do other things.”

