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Empowering Women, Schools and Communities through Waste-to-Energy in Tanzania

CONTEXT

- Across Sub-Saharan Africa, millions of schools and institutions depend on wood and charcoal for cooking, driving deforestation, greenhouse gas emissions, and health hazards, especially for women and girls. In Tanzania, UNIDO's waste-to-energy initiative is tackling this challenge head-on.
- Aligned with the Gender and Energy Compact, the programme integrates gender equality across the clean cooking value chain: reducing women's unpaid labour, improving health outcomes, and enabling women-led innovation in sustainable energy enterprises.
- At the heart of this effort is Hanny G. Investment Company Ltd, a women-founded and women-managed enterprise demonstrating how inclusive financing and technical support can transform both livelihoods and local energy systems.

STRATEGY

UNIDO's strategy under this initiative focuses on:

- Converting agricultural waste into sustainable briquettes and promoting high-efficiency institutional cookstoves.
- Providing catalytic finance through the Bioenergy Incentive Fund (BIF) managed by the Tanzania Investment Development Bank (TIB), prioritizing women-led and gender-inclusive enterprises.
- Strengthening local manufacturing and supply chains to ensure access to affordable, reliable clean cooking fuels.
- Embedding Gender and Energy Compact principles throughout—tracking time savings, women's employment, and leadership outcomes.

Through this integrated approach, the project not only expands clean energy access but also accelerates women's empowerment and climate resilience.

REGION



GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

TANZANIA



DURATION

2015-2025



TOTAL BUDGET

\$5,277,000



PARTNERS

- Global Environment Facility (GEF)
- Vice President's Office – Division of Environment
- Ministry of Energy, Tanzania
- Tanzania Investment Development Bank (TIB)
- UNIDO



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IMPACT

Hanny G. Investment Company Ltd, a women-founded and managed enterprise, is one of the beneficiaries of this programme. Through the programme's BIF, the company received technical assistance and catalytic financing to expand its production of non-carbonized briquettes and institutional cookstoves for schools and food vendors. Hanny G. demonstrates how women entrepreneurs can lead the clean-energy transition when provided with access to finance, technology, and market linkages.

17 Regions covered across Tanzania

5,300 institutional stoves supplied

18,000 tons of briquettes produced annually

500+ schools transitioned from wood/charcoal

45% reduction in monthly cooking costs for schools and institutions

36,000 tons of bio-waste recycled annually

50+ women employed across the clean energy value chain.



WORKING TOWARD SDGS



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