



The GIZ MIERA Phase 3 Project: Malawi

The Development Alternatives Group has strongly advocated and worked on the frontlines for the transfer of clean technology solutions, know-how, policy influencing and capacity building support as part of the South South Cooperation to impact lives of those who are deprived of their basic rights.

Piloted by GIZ Malawi, TARA as a technology partner has been leading the More Income and Employment in Rural Areas (MIERA) project in the Sub-Saharan country of Malawi working actively with the local stakeholders. The efforts in the Project to equip local entrepreneurs with Green Building Technologies such as the EcoKiln have strengthened the mandate of the South-South Cooperation. Over the last two years, the project has made good progress despite the hit caused by the second wave of the pandemic to catalyze progressive change in the global south.

Malawi is one of the most rapidly urbanizing countries in the world, and requires nearly 21,000 housing units every year to meet the current and future demand. While 16 percent of its population lived in urban areas in 2018, many resided in overcrowded urban settlements lacking basic services such as safe and durable housing, improved water and sanitation, and sufficient living area. The high urbanisation rate has put a tremendous pressure on the entire building materials sector. Presently, most of this demand is met by rampant mining and unsustainable processing of natural resources such as soil and sand. Further, burnt bricks, the major building material, were fired using wood. However, TARA's intervention through GIZ-MIERA highlighted the serious environmental concern caused by accelerating deforestation in Malawi. The success of the entire intervention lies in the Government of Malawi's policy change wherein a ban on wood fired kilns is henceforth imposed.

Some of the major updates that has highlighted the success of this project are:-

- More than 4000 entrepreneurs outreached in Malawi and made aware of clean technologies such as the EcoKiln
- 200 Entrepreneur expressed interest in adopting the innovative brick firing technologies
- 90 Entrepreneurs who have signed the official MOUs and are engaged in different stages to set up their own EcoKilns
- This initiative promises to generate 2500 jobs for unskilled and skilled labor both in the respective brick production units

Thus, the introduction of technologies like the EcoKiln wherein bricks no longer require wood fired technologies provides immediate relief to the crisis-affected population, the housing needs and has emerged as an opportunity to provide reliable, safe and cleaner building materials to this African nation.