

## Stove and Tree Beneficiary Interview

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**Recipient Family:** Mrs. Stumai and Mr. Alan Muhumpha

**Interviewer:** Victoria Forster-Jones

**Date:** 17th January 2006

**Village:** Manhumbulu

**District:** Dodoma Urban

On a recent visit to Manhumbulu (an STT and DODEA project village) in mid January in preparation for a visit by the Regional Administrative Secretary (RAS) I visited a stove and tree recipient family by the name of Mr and Mrs Stumai and Alani Muhumpha and their little 4 year old boy (the Muhumu's have two children, but only one was present at the compound that day). Stumai was very happy for STT to conduct an interview with her for this edition of the newsletter (a copy of which will also be send to the Muhumpha family). The interview was held in the living room of the family compound. Stumai primarily spoke about the stoves and the impact that it has had on her and her families' lives since it was built, whilst the trees appeared to be Alan's areas of knowledge and particular interest, which he spoke about the most. What follows is a very open and candid discussion about the stove and tree projects received by families such as the Muhumpha.

**VFJ** = Victoria Forster-Jones

**SM** = Stumai Muhumpha

**AM** = Alani Muhumpha

### **Stove and tree interview**

**VFJ: How many children do you have?**

**SM:** We have two children

**VFJ: How long have you lived in Mnahumbulu?**

**SM:** We have lived in the village for 6 years. Before that I was living in Mboro.

**VFJ: How did you hear about DODEA and their stove work?**

**SM:** People from the village came and told me about the stoves and DODEA, people like Obed the Village Project Co-ordinator (VPC) [VPCs works on behalf of DODEA co-ordinating and reporting project activities at the village level].

**VFJ: What type of stove do you have?**

**SM:** I have a Lorena [a Lorena is the energy efficient stove made from locally available material such as mud and straw]

**VFJ: What type of energy source do you use for:**

- a) **Cooking?**
- b) **Lighting?**
- c) **Heating?**
- d) **food preservation?**

**SM:** a) cooking: I use firewood

b) lighting: I use kerosene in a hurricane lamp

c) heating: I don't use any, to keep warm we come inside the house

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d) food preservation: I use a hot pot which bought from the shop, it keeps the food warm,

**VFJ: Why do you use these types of energy sources?**

**SM:** Firewood is free and locally available in the village and since we do not have electricity it is expensive using kerosene for cooking.



The Stumai Family

**VFJ: Before you had the improved stoves, what were some of the disadvantages of using the x3 stone fire, in terms of health, time, food preservation, and the environment?**

**SM:** They [the x3 stone fire fires] used a lot of firewood and produced a lot of smoke. This caused eye problems, with smoke getting into the eyes as well as coughing and respiratory problems. Sometimes when water was boiling children could get scolded from the pan easily tipping over. We used the old stoves because we had no other available, there was no alternative available.].

**VFJ: Before you had the improved stoves, what were some of the benefits of using the x3 stone fire?**

**SM:** There were not any benefits. [Stumai, went on to note that she couldn't understand why people would want to revert back to the x3 stone fire (which has been the case in some areas).]

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**Mama Stumai – proud stove owner**

**VFJ: Now that you have the improved stoves, what are some of its benefits in terms of health, time, fuel use, food preservation, and the environment?**

**SM:** When the fire is lit the stove becomes hot very quickly and so it does not take long to cook things. It also retains the heat very well, and I don't have to look after the fire as much as with the old x3 stone fire. It also produces much less smoke and so my eyes and chest are not affected.

**VFJ: Now that you have the improved stoves, what are some of the disadvantages/problems associated with it?**

**SM:** When the chimney was a smaller size that is when we had problems with it [smoke would enter the kitchen window. However, Mr. Muhumpha and Stumai elongated the chimney]

**VFJ: How long did it take you to go gather firewood when you had the traditional x3 stone fire?**

**SM:** I don't quite remember, but I was collecting a lot of firewood. I would collect them on different days, quite big bundles.

**VFJ: How often do you go and collect firewood now that you have the improved stove?**

**SM:** I go four times a month, but I often now gather wood for storing not using [this interview was conducted during the rainy season so Stumai may have been referring to the fact that it is the rainy season where fresh wood is frequently wet due to the rains].

**VFJ: If having the new stove gives you more time to do other things, what do you do with this extra time?**

**SM:** I do extra on the shamba [a plot of land, often used for agricultural farming] work.

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**VFJ: What are the problems of using firewood?**

**SM:** Now a days there is not enough firewood for the village so we often have to go far away to the nearest mountain to collect sufficient amounts of wood. [Stumai also mentioned that sometimes Kerosene is not available in the local shops].

**VFJ: What are the energy sources in the village?**

**SM:** Firewood is the main source of energy in the village. Firewood for cooking is better than crop residue [crop residue is highly inefficient, burning more quickly], but we use crop residue when there is no firewood available.

**VFJ: Is there a way to get your voice and opinions to the government about your energy needs?**

**SM:** Village Executive Officers (VEO, elected village level local government representatives and are stationed within village communities) call community meetings where issues and concerns can be fed to the government through the VEO. [Stumai went on to say that she would recommend to the government that they should promote the Lorena stove because it uses less firewood.]

**VJ: How do you find out information about government initiatives to combat the energy problem in your village?**

**SM:** VPCs are a source of information as well as VEOs and VEO organised community meetings. There is also the radio and newspapers.

**VFJ: What have been some of the main environmental changes that you have noticed in your village over the years?**

**SM:** People were not planting trees before but now many people are planting. There has also been an increase in the number of trees in the village from the tree planting efforts.

**AM:** There are many more trees around unlike before because of tree planting. This has lead to there being many more trees surrounding our area and in the village. Before, we did not know the importance of planting trees, but now we do.

**VFJ: How would you improve the current stove?**

**SM:** Originally the stove was not as well built as it could have been because of the chimney, but now it is. [Stimau went on to say that now she feels able to improve other women's stoves besides her own].

**VFJ: Who makes decisions in your family about the types of energy fuels you use or buy?**

**SM:** We both do, but it is I who tend to know whether there is any kerosene left and so I am the one who provides the money. [In terms of the Lorena, Stumai noted that her husband also likes the stove particularly as he was involved in repairing the chimney. Also there were many problems associated with the x3 stone fire, which is why he likes the Lorena as there are no problems]

**VFJ: Have you received tree seedlings from DODEA (STT local partner organisation implementing the projects in the field)?**

**SM:** The only one who knows more about trees is my husband. I had got some seedlings from the Upendo group in 2005 (a group supported by STT and DODEA who have set up a tree nursery and have been trained in Mycorrhiza). We have placed them along the boundary of our compound; they are now two years old.

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**VFJ: In the future what do you expect to use the trees for?**

**SM:** We will use them for shade and for firewood. In many years to come when they grow big I will prune them and use the wood for cooking.

**AM:** I get trees from the Upendo group, when I hear the news that trees are available I go. I have collected ten seedlings.



**Father and son on the shamba**

**VFJ: When do you plant the seedlings?**

**AM:** During the rainy season.

**VFJ: What type of trees do you need?**

**AM:** I would like to have fruit trees for eating and selling.

STT would like to thank the entire Muhumpha family for giving us their time and allowing the team into their home to conduct the interview. We would also like to thank Mr. Sudda of DODEA for his helpful interpretation of the questions and answers in Kiswahili and Kigogo.