



Building Better Research Partnerships

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International Lifeline Fund
with Oregon State University

OSU Research Overview

- Objective: To understand and model the decision-making behavior of households regarding the adoption of household energy technologies.
 - Usability evaluation protocol - Nick Moses
 - FUEL sensor-based monitoring - Jen Ventrella
 - User intentions survey - Mohammad Pakravan
 - Advised by Dr. Nordica MacCarty
- Setting: Apac District, Northern Uganda
- Data collected with Magpi platform

Partner NGO: ILF

- Operational since 2006
- Mission: To catalyze the developing world through clean water and cooking interventions that profoundly improve quality of life for the lowest possible costs
- Headquartered in Washington, D.C. with program offices and stove manufacturing facilities in Lira, Uganda and Port-au-Prince, Haiti
- Humanitarian and market-building programs across sub-Saharan Africa and the Caribbean, including in Northern Uganda, Darfur, South Sudan, Burundi, Haiti, Tanzania, and Northern Kenya
- Areas of cookstove expertise: R&D, design, testing, production, marketing, distribution, training, and program monitoring and evaluation

Phase I: Planning

1) Choose a partner on the ground that has established relationships within the target community

- Ideal partner: 3-5+ years in community, good working relationship with local gov., program team of mainly local staff, coordinates with other actors in the community (private sector, NGOs, public institutions)

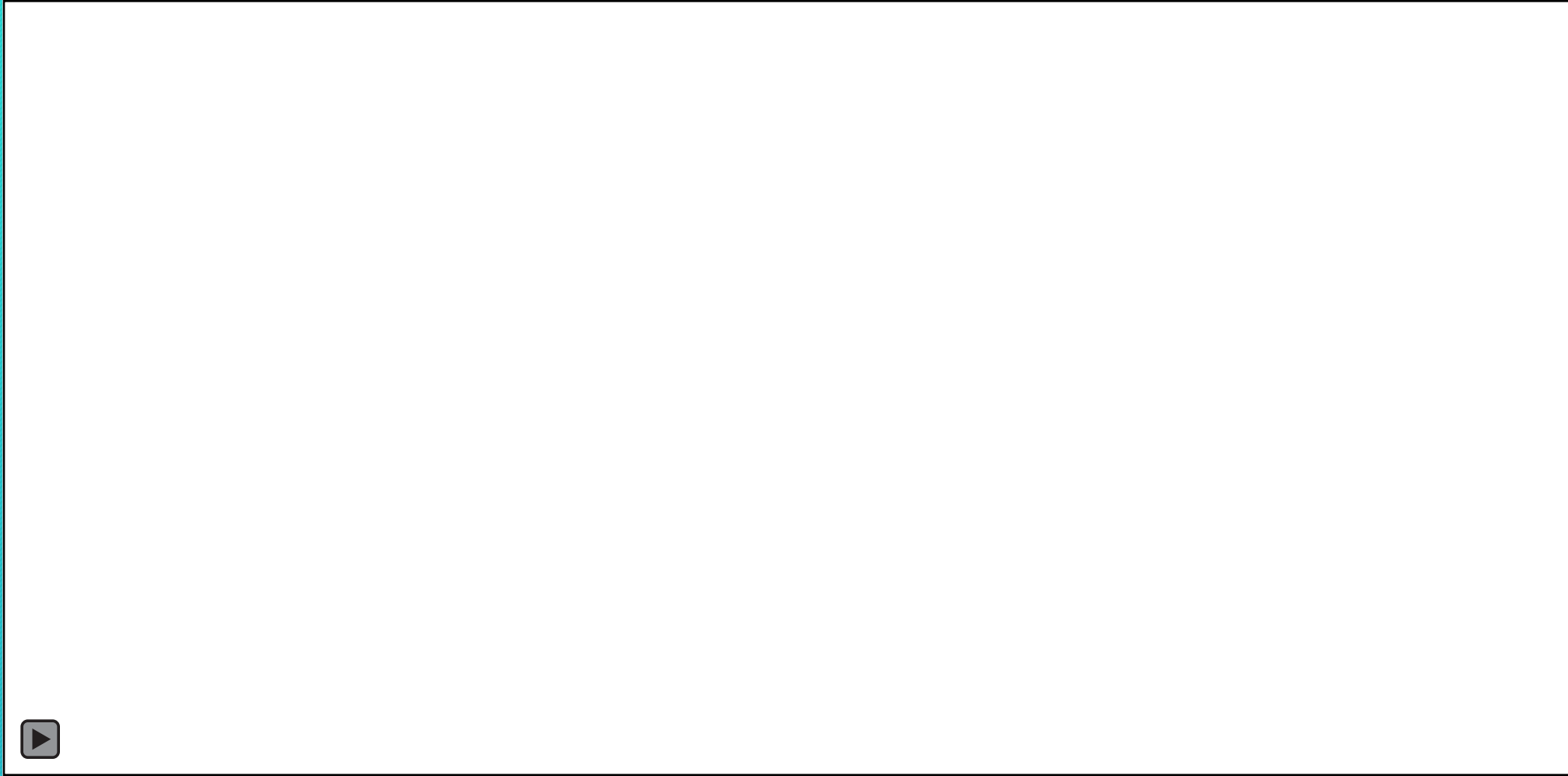
2) Communicate research objectives with management and program staff and brief researchers on field landscape

- Brief ground staff via skype and in person
- Best if partner has complementary program goals

3) Identify program risks and mitigation strategies

4) Openness and flexibility in program implementation to accommodate realities on the ground

Videos for Program Staff Training



Phase II: Implementation

- 1) Host community meetings to engage participants from the very start
 - Multiple meetings preferable, as not all participants will be able to attend one scheduled meeting
- 2) Build in buffer days to accommodate field delays and revision
- 3) Utilize a dedicated FES team for implementation
 - Using program staff from other departments can result in loss of organizational memory



Above: Nick Moses interviews a stove user at meal time with ILF staff to assist in translation.

Left: Jen Ventrella and ILF program staff install a FUEL sensor inside a kitchen.

Phase III: Review and Communications

- 1) Outside of formal reports, informal phone/email updates on program progress go a long way to build trust and strengthen the relationship
- 2) Debrief following program activities to discuss what went right, wrong, unexpected, or needs adjustment
- 3) Collaborate and allow joint review of reports, one pagers, and communications materials shared with sector
 - Agree on a communication calendar and strategy to share results

Research and Partnership Significance

- 1) Shared goals: assessing the user experience of cooking and technology selection/adoption → consumer driven cookstove design and program implementation
- 2) Good partners complement strengths, accomplish more together than alone
- 3) Sharing program tactics and lessons learned to encourage more productive research partnerships throughout the sector

“The strategy of the OSU team made the project implementation a success. They engaged the community right from the start in focus group discussions. This made [the participants] understand the scope of the project.”
- FES program staff, ILF-Uganda