DAASGIFT QUALITY FOUNDATION

Location: Takoradi, Ghana
Website: WWW.DAASGIFT.ORG
RENEWABLE ENERGY & GENDER - THE ROLE OF MICROFINANCE (DQF’S INTERVENTION)

DAASGIFT QUALITY FOUNDATION (DQF)’S EFFORTS IN ADDRESSING ENERGY POVERTY AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT THROUGH ENERGY MICROFINANCE, SINCE AUGUST 2009.
It is the PASSION of DQF to empower women especially those at the grassroots (base/bottom of the pyramid) to access affordable clean energy and also have voice in energy issues since it is the women who suffer most when it comes to the consequences of domestic energy poverty.
Founded in May 2006, by Mrs, Gifty Baaba Asmah, DQF is a Ghanaian non-governmental community development organisation that aims at empowering the poor and needy, especially women and youth, through the facilitation and provision of:

- Community Development Initiatives
- Renewable Energy Initiatives and microfinance
- Micro Enterprise Initiatives
- Micro lending
- Micro Business Development Services
- Health education (HIV/AIDS, Malaria Awareness)
- Skills training - yet to commence
Malaria Awareness
Disbursement of Microcredit
Community Initiative-Provision of milling machine
Access to portable water
Sensitizing the youth
Community happy with DQF
Micro lending as one of the major tools to reduce energy poverty

DQF has identified energy poverty — or the lack of

- basic modern energy,
- small amounts of electricity,
- clean cooking options
- modern communication options
- modest productive power — as a critical roadblock in achieving poverty reduction and that matter the MDGs in its areas of operation.
DQF’s INTERVENTION

DQF addresses energy poverty through increasing availability of microfinance options for end users. This innovation was initiated in August 2009 through $50,000.00 investment from E+Co after meeting at the 1st Lighting Africa Conference in Ghana.

The initiative offers short term credit (of six or twelve months) to individual and micro-businesses which require:

- solar lanterns and solar home system
- LPG equipment
- Other cooking options
- Small amount of electricity

This strategy aims at creating wealth and reducing poverty for targeted clients.
APPROACH

1. Identify energy need, problems, products and target market, eg LPG stoves and ovens, solar lanterns and home systems, small amount of electricity, improved cooked stove, eg. Toyola coal pots, DQF’s smokeless cook stoves

2. Design suitable package for the identified targets.

3. Search for potential investors and/or interested organization in renewable energy industry for to partner for funding—(demanding/frustrating)

4. Source wholesale funds/retail funding or grants (major challenge) eg. E+Co, EIC (internet application).
5. Partner with manufacturers/suppliers
6. Sensitize and educate communities and target market (very demanding and expensive) on products, the benefit and the conditions of the package.
7. Supply, monitor and recover.
8. Evaluate impact-(not scientific yet).
Community Engagements
Community Engagements
Community Engagement
DQF’S SMOKELESS STOVES AND FISH SMOKING TRAYS
Toyola and LPG stoves
Small amounts of electricity
Community sensitization
...I do not buy kerosen anymore. What excites me is, I am able to charge my mobile phone. The brightness is also very good.
Power for development
CONCLUSION

There is a great renewable need so effective data need to be collated. There is also the need to develop a database and linkage of:

- financiers and fund houses
- Manufacturers
- Service providers and
- Develop workable policies and frameworks targeting all players.

Thank You.