

Providing sustainable stoves to indigenous communities in Guatemala

CEJS Fellowship Midyear Report

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Overview of project:

This project aims to determine the environmental health impacts of the installation of clean stoves with external ventilation systems in the highlands of Guatemala.

Progress made:

Last summer, I traveled to the highlands of Guatemala to work within Mayan villages, alongside Medical Teams International (MTI) and Providence Health International (PHI). I visited numerous homes where MTI and PHI have installed clean stoves to understand how these stoves impact health conditions. Clean stoves dramatically reduce the amount of household pollution and smoke inhalation, which leads to a decrease in respiratory illnesses and infections. The stoves also decrease the amount of firewood being burned for cooking by 90%, providing families with more resources while lowering deforestation rates. One family told me that having a clean stove has given their children a chance to have a childhood and focus on their education since they no longer need to collect firewood on a daily basis.

Future plans:

I will be return to Guatemala this summer to continue my research. I will also be writing a literary review to complete my scholarly project for the College of Nursing.

