Casa Grata: youth-led and gender-responsive clean energy solution for rural communities in Colombia

Description of the project:
Casa Grata is a decentralised and affordable youth-led solution that brings solar energy to dispersed and hard-to-reach rural households. The system includes a solar panel, light bulbs, a battery and a solar charge controller. This solution allows electronic devices to be charged and light bulbs to be plugged in, reducing school dropout rates, particularly among girls, and improving families’ livelihoods. Through the ‘Guardians of Light’ programme, rural women are trained as technicians to install, monitor and repair the systems, ensuring long-term sustainability in a difficult context of internal conflict.

TRANSFORMATIVE OUTCOMES

Climate impact
- Reduce CO₂ emissions by replacing candles or diesel lamps with solar photovoltaic systems
- Decentralised solar energy solution based on a community approach

Gender impact
- 36 rural women are members of the Guardians of Light committee
- Through a Train-of-Trainer approach, rural women are trained in financial savings and technical skills
- Empowering women through meaningful participation in decision making

Scalability / replicability
- Payment system based on interest-free credit and adjusted to the user’s income ensures wide dissemination
- Communities empowered to follow their own development pathway
- Internal conflict victims and displaced communities return to the land and find some peace

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Roof farming for climate resilience and women’s empowerment in urban areas of South Asia

Description of the project:
The project trains women and youth in the set-up and management of roof farming alternatives for urban areas, such as hydroponics and aquaponics. Women are empowered to produce nutritious and safe organic food for their family, using minimum water and space, while earning new income. This ideal solution for highly dense urban areas is supported by a mobile application that enables knowledge sharing and monitoring. This effectively addresses any challenge faced by users in the farming process.

TRANSFORMATIVE OUTCOMES

Climate impact
- Greening urban spaces reduces air pollution
- Safe, affordable and organic food security for urban families
- The farming methods use less water and limited space

Gender impact
- Contributes to gender equality through training and knowledge sharing for women
- Women’s economic empowerment via the sales of farming production

Scalability / replicability
- The project has a good scope of being propagated to all urban areas in Nepal
- Simple and affordable method easy to scale up and expand
- Digital tool enhances access to support and broad dissemination

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