

# CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT FACTSHEET



## THE PROBLEM

The use of solid fuels in open fires and traditional stoves for cooking is one of the world's most pressing health and climate issues, directly impacting close to half the world's population and leading to more than four million premature deaths each year. Inefficient cooking is also a root cause of poverty, poor health, gender inequality, environmental degradation, air pollution, and climate change.

Inefficient combustion of biomass fuels results in a range of health and climate-damaging emissions, including greenhouse gases and short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs). The most significant SLCP emitted by solid fuel cookstoves is black carbon (BC), a component of particulate matter emissions. Since the atmospheric lifetime of black carbon is only a few days, reducing BC emissions can bring about a more rapid climate response than reductions in carbon dioxide and other long-lived greenhouse gases alone. In addition, unsustainable wood harvesting also contributes to forest degradation, reducing carbon uptake by forests. Fine particulate emissions from household cooking with solid fuels are also a major source of ambient air pollution.

The global community cannot reach its goals of eradicating poverty and addressing climate change without addressing the way millions of people cook.

## THE SOLUTION

Clean cooking provides tangible impacts at both the macro- and household level. Access to clean cooking technology empowers individuals, women in particular, to improve their well-being and the environment around them. Thanks to the work of the more than 1,700 partners that make up the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves, nearly 53 million households have gained access to clean and/or efficient cookstoves and fuels over the past five years, with more than 100 million projected by 2020.

## CO-BENEFITS OF CLEAN COOKING

Climate change and environmental degradation disproportionately affect vulnerable populations living on the front lines of these global challenges. Clean cooking solutions address the most basic needs of the poor, while also delivering broader benefits. Scaling up clean cooking can address climate change while providing significant improvements to global health, as well as benefits to women's empowerment and local economies.

The co-benefits delivered by clean cooking solutions are beginning to attract the cross-sectoral recognition they warrant.

## ADDRESSING A GLOBAL CHALLENGE

Nearly **3 billion** people rely on open fires and simple stoves to cook their food that burn solid fuels like wood, animal dung, charcoal, and coal.

**Over 4 million\*** people die prematurely every year from illnesses attributable to the household air pollution from cooking with solid fuels.

Up to **25%** of black carbon emissions come from burning solid fuels for household energy needs.

Up to **34%** of woodfuel harvested is unsustainable contributing to forest degradation, and climate change.

**\$123 billion** in annual costs to health, environment, and economies in the developing world are due to the use of solid fuels for cooking.



\*According to the World Health Organization (accessed April 2017)

## FOR CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT BENEFITS

Implementation of the Paris Agreement provides an opportunity for policymakers and practitioners to advance the issue of household energy access and expand efforts to provide affordable, acceptable, and safe cooking solutions. Countries around the world see the advantages of scaling clean cooking as a means of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and implementing the Paris Agreement. More than 50 countries where solid fuel-use is prevalent have included clean cooking in their national plans to realize the objectives laid out in the Paris Agreement, including seven of the Alliance's eight focus countries – Bangladesh, Ghana, Guatemala, India, Kenya, Nigeria, and Uganda. We can enable and accelerate their progress by taking the following steps:

- 1 **Support capacity building and financing that will enable countries to fulfill the clean cooking aspirations laid out in their climate plans**
- 2 **Ensure that climate, environment, and renewable energy funds have provisions for clean cooking**
- 3 **Commit to funding clean cooking projects that meet minimum efficiency and emission standards**
- 4 **Ensure integration of clean cooking and heating within national climate change mitigation efforts, including proposals to the Global Climate Fund, NAMA facilities, and REDD+ programs**
- 5 **Support competitive carbon pricing and other financing aimed at scaling up clean cooking, heating, and lighting to reduce GHGs, as well as BC and other SLCPs**
- 6 **Advocate for countries to offer beneficial tax policies and tariff rates necessary to grow the clean and efficient cookstoves and fuels market**
- 7 **Support the inclusion and financing of interventions to scale clean cooking and address household air pollution in strategies and efforts to implement the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement**

As the world works toward implementing the Sustainable Development Goals and addressing climate change, it is particularly important that we invest in proven, scalable solutions that bring cross-cutting, economically inclusive impacts.

### ABOUT THE ALLIANCE

The Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves is a public-private partnership hosted by the UN Foundation to save lives, improve livelihoods, empower women, and protect the environment by creating a thriving global market for clean and efficient household cooking solutions. The Alliance's 100 by '20 goal calls for 100 million households to adopt clean and efficient cookstoves and fuels by 2020. We are working with a strong network of public, private and non-profit partners to accelerate the production, deployment, and use of clean and efficient cookstoves and fuels in developing countries.