

Country Factsheet: Ghana

THE ISSUE

Exposure to smoke from traditional cookstoves and open fires – the primary means of cooking for nearly three billion people in the developing world – causes nearly 4 million premature deaths each year, including 13,000 deaths in Ghana.

Cooking smoke contributes to a range of chronic illnesses and acute health impacts such as early childhood pneumonia, emphysema, cataracts, lung cancer, bronchitis, cardiovascular disease, and low birth weight. Women and young children are the most affected by the health problems associated with exposure to smoke, with more than 3,000 children in Ghana dying every year as a result of acute lower respiratory infections, including pneumonias, caused by the use of solid fuels.

Reliance on biomass for cooking and heating increases pressures on local natural resources and forces women and children to spend many hours each week collecting wood. In Ghana, more than 80 percent of households rely on solid fuels for their household cooking needs, contributing to deforestation and desertification. Inefficient cookstoves also contribute to climate change through emissions of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide and methane, and aerosols such as black carbon.

THE SOLUTION

The use of clean, safe, and efficient cookstoves can dramatically reduce fuel consumption and exposure to harmful smoke, can provide myriad economic opportunities for Ghanaians, and can help reduce deforestation. More efficient stoves also reduce the time people, usually women and girls, need to spend collecting fuel, allowing greater time to devote to income generating activities or schoolwork.

In Ghana, the economic opportunities brought by clean cooking solutions could be transformational. The entire clean cookstove supply-chain could be a source of economic opportunity and job creation at the local level. Whether cookstoves are mass-produced in a central location or manufactured locally, local business partners are needed for distribution, sales, and the service of stoves, as well as the supply of processed fuels where appropriate. A thriving industry for clean cooking solutions will provide these benefits on a sustainable basis, providing jobs to thousands of individuals.

By the Numbers: Ghana



84%
of population relies
on solid fuels

21 million
people affected

4 million
households affected

13,000
deaths per year
from exposure to
cookstove smoke

3,000
child deaths per year
from exposure to
cookstove smoke

TOP PRIORITIES

- Working closely with the Ghana government and in-country stakeholders, such as the Ghana Alliance for Clean Cookstove, to improve efficiency and performance of locally-produced cookstoves
- Supporting enterprise development through funding opportunities and working to improve the country's regulatory environment to help strengthen and advance the clean cookstoves and fuels market
- Partnering with Ministry of Petroleum, National Petroleum Authority, and Global LPG partnership to develop and implement a new cylinder re-circulation LPG policy
- Partnering with Energy Commission and Ghana Standards Authority to help develop local standards, labeling, and modern testing centres
- Partnering with the Ghana Girl Guides Association to empower girls as community leaders to raise awareness about clean cooking
- Launching targeted awareness building, advocacy, and behavior change campaigns to increase energy access and empower women through women's groups' leaders

LATEST ACHIEVEMENTS

- Developed a school curriculum to educate students on the benefits of clean cooking
- Helped Ghana Cylinder attract private sector partners to fund expanded production and operations
- Trained Women's Groups on the health, socioeconomic and environmental benefits of switching to improved cookstoves
- Worked to successfully re-launch Envirofit products
- Worked with Energy Commission and Ghana Standards Authority to accept CLASP's recommendations with respect to National Standards development process
- Launched ATL (Radio) and BTL (Community Market Activations) to support Women's Groups' awareness campaign
- Coordinated with local partners to improve performance, enhance capacity, and to participate in Alliance initiatives, including the Women's Empowerment Fund

WHAT OUR PARTNERS ARE SAYING

“The Alliance's Catalytic Small Grant program enabled Ghana Cylinder to come back from the brink, much stronger and more profitable. We were able to purchase new machinery, streamline operations, and increase production capacity. The Alliance helped catalyze our growth and develop a comprehensive distribution expansion strategy, and become a regional leader in quality and service.”

— ELIZABETH YAWA MORNY, CEO, Ghana Cylinder

