

MYANMAR FACTSHEET



THE ISSUE

Exposure to smoke from traditional cookstoves and open fires – the primary means of cooking and heating for nearly three billion people in the developing world – causes more than 4 million premature deaths, including more than 48,000 deaths and affecting more than 49 million people in Myanmar each year.

Cookstove 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 cookstove smoke, with more than 3,500 children in Myanmar dying every year as a result of acute lower respiratory infections, including pneumonia, 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 Myanmar, 93% of the population relies on solid fuel for their household cooking needs, contributing to environmental 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

Clean cooking is instrumental to improving energy access in Myanmar. The use of clean, safe, and efficient cookstoves and fuels can dramatically reduce fuel consumption and exposure to harmful cookstove smoke, provide myriad economic opportunities, and help address 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 Myanmar, the economic opportunities brought by clean cooking solutions could be transformational. The entire clean cookstoves and fuels supply-chain could be a source of economic opportunity and job creation at the local level, as well as an opportunity for south-south cooperation. Whether cookstoves are mass-produced in a central location or produced locally, 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 many thousands of individuals.

BY THE NUMBERS



93%

of population relies
on solid fuels

49 million

people affected

10.8 million

households affected

48,000

deaths per year
from exposure to cookstove
smoke

3,500

child deaths per year
from exposure to cookstove
smoke

DELIVERING ON THE SDGS THROUGH CLEAN COOKING

Clean cooking can directly support the achievement of 10 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. To reach the global goals, substantial progress on the issues of household air pollution, unpaid work, and cooking energy is required. The government of Myanmar included clean cooking in its plan to support implementation of the Paris Agreement. Clean cooking is also included in the Myanmar Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (2016-2030) and National Energy Policy (2014). Scaling up clean cooking can drive cross-cutting gains in line with global and national ambitions, while also bringing about tangible benefits for families.



1 NO POVERTY
Clean cooking is part of basic services necessary to lead a healthy and productive life and saves households time and money.



2 ZERO HUNGER
Efficient cookstoves reduce the amount of fuel needed to cook, thus reducing the burden on families who would otherwise have to collect it, buy it, or trade their food for it.



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
Reducing smoke emissions from cooking decreases the burden of disease associated with household air pollution and improves well-being, especially for women and children.



4 QUALITY EDUCATION
Children, particularly girls, are often kept out of school so that they can contribute to household tasks, like cooking and collecting fuel.



5 GENDER EQUALITY
Unpaid work, including collecting fuel and cooking, remain a major cause of gender inequality.



7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY
Clean cooking is essential to addressing energy poverty and ensuring sustainable energy security for billions of people.



7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY
Energy access enables enhanced productivity and inclusive economic growth. The clean cooking sector offers many job opportunities.



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES
Clean cooking addresses household and ambient air pollution, resource efficiency, and climate vulnerability.



13 CLIMATE ACTION
Up to 25% of black carbon emissions come from burning solid fuels for household energy needs. Clean cooking solutions address the most basic needs of the poor, while also delivering climate benefits.



15 LIFE ON LAND
Up to 34% of woodfuel harvested is unsustainable, contributing to forest degradation, deforestation, and climate change.

ABOUT THE ALLIANCE

The Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves is a public-private partnership hosted by the United Nations Foundation that seeks 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 cleaner and more efficient cookstoves and fuels by 2020. The Alliance is working with its public, private and non-profit partners to accelerate the production, deployment, and use of clean and efficient cookstoves and fuels in developing countries.