



Clean Cooking Manifesto

A call to action by the Africa-Europe Foundation for achieving universal access to clean cooking by 2030

Urgent action is needed

With fewer than ten years until we reach 2030, the world remains far off track to meet SDG7 — which commits to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all. Nearly 2.6 billion people still lack access to modern cooking solutions, and the COVID-19 pandemic threatens to reverse progress and further exacerbate inequalities.

To date, the level of commitment and investment in clean cooking has not matched the global magnitude of the challenge. Considering the annual toll on human health, forests, climate and local economies, clean cooking solutions should be central to global strategies and to national recovery plans. Changing the way families cook their food each day will slow climate change and deforestation, drive gender equality, reduce poverty, and provide enormous health benefits.

The next twelve months are critically important year for energy and international development. The UN High-Level Dialogue on Energy, the 26th UN Climate Conference (COP 26) and the Africa-Europe political summit of heads of state in early 2022 give world leaders an opportunity to make momentous progress on climate protection, health, the environment, and women’s empowerment. Ambitious commitments and concrete actions to achieve universal access to clean cooking will be one of the most significant levers to achieving both climate and development goals.

Governments must lead equitable clean cooking transitions



Development actors must increase funding to match the magnitude of the challenge



The private sector must deliver clean and affordable solutions



A coordinated approach is required to ensure we achieve SDG7 by 2030 and no one is left behind.

Below we identify the immediate actions needed from governments, international finance and development institutions, and the private sector to accelerate action on clean cooking.

- 1 Ensure a just energy transition that leaves no one behind.** The clean cooking community must address the tensions and trade-offs inherent in achieving universal access to clean cooking by 2030, whilst remaining within the Paris Agreement commitments of the UNFCCC's 1.5-degree target and reducing global emissions to Net-Zero by 2050 as being championed by the recent IEA report on Net-Zero. The global community can achieve both climate change goals and clean cooking ambitions. Given technology developments it is now possible to build intrinsic climate and development ambitions as complementary goals. Households should have access to clean cooking solutions that reduces the burden of health by addressing indoor household pollution – a result of the lack of clean cooking solutions- and will ensure improvements in livelihoods.

We must genuinely engage all people — across race, gender and intra-household dynamics, geography, and income — to develop equitable solutions. National governments must be empowered and supported to determine the transition path that best suits their local context.

Governments should engage clean cooking solutions with the ultimate goal of ensuring affordable access to the cleanest and lowest carbon sources of cooking through improved electrification.

In some countries liquid petroleum gas (LPG) is a necessary transition fuel substitute in the context where other options are more harmful to health and livelihoods. According to the International Energy Agency (IEA) analysis, in most cases, LPG for cooking is a better option in terms of GHG as well as non-GHG emissions compared to traditional use of biomass in places where no other clean cooking solutions are available.

Where subsidies are being provided for clean cooking solutions, governments should look towards incentivising electrification solutions so as to diversify the energy mix, increase least cost low-carbon solutions and options for the households suffering from energy poverty.

Governments

- 2 Integrate clean cooking into NDCs and national energy planning.** Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) can create transformational change in a country's climate and energy plans and must include ambitious targets for clean cooking. NDC's should seek to be as aligned as possible to the Paris climate goals and the IEA's 1.5-degree Net Zero goals. Governments submitting their revised NDCs should ensure clean cooking is fully embedded, with robust targets to meet climate and development goals. Likewise, governments should engage in integrated energy planning that addresses the full suite of household energy needs, including clean cooking, to maximize health and livelihood benefits of energy access. The emerging Health Energy Platform of Action (HEPA) Coalition of Leaders on clean cooking should be supported and funded, as a platform for leaders to showcase progress being made at national level to put in place the strategies and policies to advance their clean cooking sectors.
- 3 Create and resource governmental clean cooking 'delivery units' innovation** that lead and coordinate clean cooking efforts across agencies and departments. These 'delivery units' would help promote the adoption of effective and robust policy frameworks and shape funding and action where commitments exist. The international community must commit the resources - both financial and technical support - to help national governments establish these 'delivery units', make

investments to fund the successful delivery of ambitious policies and programmes, and operate in service of commitments that national governments have made in partnership with these 'delivery units', including choices related to the fuel and technology mix.

4 Enact favourable and stable fiscal policies to sustain business growth and increase affordability.

Governments can support the development of a robust clean cooking industry through tax and import duty exemptions, accelerated depreciation, and smart subsidies that are directed towards solutions that meet both climate and energy access objectives. These approaches have been deployed, with much success, in the off-grid, renewable power sector. Purely market-based models are unlikely to be sufficient to deliver affordable solutions at the level and speed required to achieve universal access by 2030. Given the multiple social and developmental benefits associated with clean cooking, deploying innovative supply and targeted demand-side subsidies is justified to enable wider access, as has been the case in the off-grid solar sector.

Development actors

5 Support countries to develop appropriate policy frameworks and technical support to enable rapid growth of clean cooking solutions.

Countries need to be supported when developing Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans. Both need to be representative of the current situation on clean cooking and make sure to call for stronger help from the international community, through climate finance for clean cooking solutions. The establishment of a resource centre would help build an evidence base that easily translates into informed choices, and supports national plans that are equitable, based on an effective regulatory environment and centred on the user. Critically, increasing the share of women policymakers and gender mainstreaming will further strengthen the development outcomes from clean cooking interventions.

6 Increase funding to match the magnitude of the clean cooking challenge.

Clean cooking must rise up the funding agenda, as a priority within integrated national energy plans that include a holistic approach to electricity. Funders should offer concessional finance and blended finance solutions to enable investment in clean cooking. Prioritizing more resources for clean cooking can help mobilize the resources and attention that is critical for influencing political will and commitment-setting within national governments. Developed economies should also reduce subsidisation of fossil-based options and redirect funds towards enhanced and more scaled electrification and clean cooking solutions.

7 Develop sustainable markets that deliver clean and affordable solutions.

The sector must pursue three trajectories aligned to national plans, including immediately expanding access to proven clean solutions, specifically greater electricity with priority given to decentralised models inclusive of LPG, ethanol and biogas as a transitory energy option; and significantly improving the quality and performance of improved cookstoves that deliver cleaner solutions to the poorest and most vulnerable populations.

Crucially, the sector needs increased investment at various stages of enterprise growth, and greater engagement with industry actors to promote innovation and scale-up. Results-based financing (RBF), including carbon finance and use of carbon offsets - will be critical to addressing the funding needs of enterprises and the affordability gap for consumers. Resources for evidence-based research and evaluation would ensure effective targeting of activities.

Private sector

- 8 Increase private sector investment in clean cooking solutions.** The International Energy Agency (IEA) have reported that the funding required to achieve universal access to modern energy cooking services by 2030 is estimated at USD 4.5 billion per year in the latest Tracking SDG7 Report (2021), equivalent to USD 2 for every person without access in 2019. According to SEforALL, the current level of investment is only a small fraction of this - estimated at about USD 131 million in 2018. Funding needs to come from public-sector sources, critical for de-risking private investment. Private-sector financing required for the development of downstream infrastructure essential to the functioning of modern energy cooking markets accounts for the remaining 7%, or US\$11 billion, of this total. The total amount of private investment required to build a dynamic, financially sustainable industry could be significantly higher than this, since new product and business model innovations could create a commercially viable clean cooking industry that attracts significant commercial and concessionary capital through a variety of investment mechanisms. Developing countries should partner with developed economies to catalyse and scale the level and rate of innovation for clean cooking solutions in Africa that are consistent with the Paris goals and net-zero targets.
- 9 Build stronger partnerships with the electricity sector to advance electric cooking.** Rapidly expanding partnerships with the electricity sector should include (a) engaging mini-grid associations and programmes to identify shared opportunities for cross-sector collaboration, to advocate for clean cooking as part of off-grid energy systems and (b) expanding formal partnerships with mini-grid operators to pilot and scale bundling programmes and ensure the load-planning of individual operators will include electricity for cooking. In support of this concept, resources should be allocated for efforts to embed clean cooking more explicitly in mini-grid programmes.
- 10 Increase participation of women and integrate gender issues** not only to increase impacts for women and girls, but to increase the effectiveness of solutions. Women are a key part of the clean cooking value chain, from producing and distributing products to entrepreneurship and executive leadership. The private sector must rapidly scale opportunities for women to participate formally in the sector as providers and decision-makers, instead of simply as users, aiming to increase the share of women entrepreneurs and employees in the clean cooking sector to at least 50% by 2030.

We urge governments, investors, businesses and other key stakeholders to align with a greater sense of urgency and innovation, elevating clean cooking within energy, climate and development agendas.

Bold action must be taken to ensure that billions of people have the means to prepare food in a safe, clean and affordable way. The time to act is now. We will succeed by working together through sustained, well-coordinated efforts that harness the strengths and resources from a broad range of public and private actors and channel significantly increased funding to the sector

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