



**REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS:  
GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE & CLEAN AND EFFICIENT COOKSTOVE AND FUEL INTERVENTIONS  
IN HUMANITARIAN SETTINGS  
(RFA 16-8)**

## THE GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR CLEAN COOKSTOVES

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 4.3 million premature deaths annually, with women and young children the most affected.<sup>1</sup> In sub-Saharan Africa and Asia, the lack of access to clean cookstoves and fuels for cooking is especially acute, with a third of the urban population and the vast majority of the rural poor using solid fuels to cook their daily meals over open fires or inefficient stoves. Cookstove smoke contributes to a range of chronic illnesses and acute health impacts such as pneumonia, lung cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, cataracts, low birth weight, and burns. Without intervention, the problem will continue to grow – the International Energy Agency estimates that by 2030, 100 million more people will use traditional biomass fuels than do so today.<sup>2</sup>

Reliance on biomass for cooking and heating also increases pressure on local natural resources (e.g., forests, habitat) and forces women and children to spend many hours each week gathering wood, or spend significant household income purchasing fuel. In addition, harvesting fuels for wood burning cookstoves can cause sustained land degradation. In conflict-affected settings, though food is distributed by the humanitarian community, fuel for cooking is often not provided or available, leaving millions of refugee and internally displaced women and girls at risk for daily attack. Inefficient cookstoves also contribute to global emissions of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide and short-lived climate pollutants such black carbon, a major contributor to climate change.

The Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves (the Alliance) is an innovative public-private partnership hosted by the United Nations Foundation to save lives, improve livelihoods, empower women, and combat climate change by creating a thriving global market for clean and efficient household cooking solutions. The Alliance's '100 by 2020' goal calls for 100 million homes to adopt clean and efficient stoves and fuels by 2020. The Alliance believes that the scope and severity of cookstoves' impacts on the health and environment of nearly 40% of the world's population – especially girls and women – necessitate an immediate and concerted response from the global research, policy, and donor communities.

### ALLIANCE RESEARCH PRIORITIES

During the first phase (2012 – 2014) of its efforts, the Alliance's research portfolio focused on filling in key gaps in the evidence base needed to document the significant health, environmental, gender, and economic benefits of clean cookstoves and fuels. The Alliance helped direct almost \$5 million in research grants to the sector and supported 39 studies across 23 countries. Those studies show clean cooking solutions not only protect public health, but also offer clear environmental, gender, and economic benefits that when aggregated, create a compelling case for global action.

The Alliance believes that by providing governments, NGOs, impact investors, and donors with evidence-based information on the benefits of clean cooking technologies, it can help them quantify the impact of their investments in the sector. Thus, as we move into the next phase (2015-2017) of our efforts, the Alliance is focusing on scaling up adoption of clean cooking technologies. During Phase II, the Alliance has also expanded its research strategy to focus less on quantifying the impacts of traditional cooking towards quantifying the benefits (health, gender, livelihood, climate, and environment) of adopting clean cooking technologies. For more detailed information, please refer to our [Marketing Enabling Roadmap](#) (page 83) for Phase 2.

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### **GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE & CLEAN AND EFFICIENT COOKSTOVE AND FUEL INTERVENTIONS IN HUMANITARIAN SETTINGS**

#### **BACKGROUND**

In 2015, 65.3 million people, or one person in 113, were forcibly displaced from their homes as a result of persecution, conflict, generalized violence, or human rights violations;<sup>3</sup> and approximately 20 million additional people were displaced by natural disasters.<sup>4</sup> Many of these individuals rely on three-stone fires and traditional fuels such as wood, animal dung, and agricultural waste for cooking, which negatively impacts their health, environment, food security, and safety.

On average, firewood collectors, who are predominantly women, walk more than five hours per trip to collect fuel to cook food for their families, risking physical and sexual assault, abuse, and injury.<sup>5</sup> A United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) survey found that 42% of the 673 refugee households surveyed in Chad had at least one member that experienced incidents of physical or verbal assault, theft, attempted rape, rape, or other forms of violence during firewood collection over the six-month recall period. The same survey conducted in Uganda's refugee camps found similar statistics: 41% of 702 surveyed households had at least one member that experienced violence during firewood collection over the past six months. Error! Bookmark not defined. Incidents of rape during firewood collection over the past six months were reported by 4% of households in Uganda and 5% of households in Chad. These numbers are almost certainly underestimated due to the stigma related to reporting rape. Yet even this low estimate means that more than 1,197 refugee women were raped during firewood collection over a six month period living in UNHCR's camps in Uganda and Chad – seven per day.<sup>5</sup>

#### **ENERGY IN HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE**

In March 2007, the United Nations Inter-Agency Standing Committee Task Force on Safe Access to Firewood and Alternative Energy (IASC Task Force on SAFE) was established “to reduce exposure to violence, contribute to the protection of and ease the burden on those populations collecting wood in humanitarian settings worldwide, through solutions which will promote safe access to appropriate energy and reduce environmental impacts while ensuring accountability.”<sup>6</sup> Today, the IASC Task Force on SAFE has transitioned into the [SAFE Humanitarian Working Group](#), and is co-chaired by the Alliance, WFP, and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) with a Steering Committee comprised of UNICEF, UNHCR, Mercy Corps, and others.

The risks of non-partner physical and sexual violence related to firewood collection for cooking in crisis settings are clear; recognition of this connection prompted the inclusion of fuel-efficient cookstoves as a minimum standard in humanitarian response under the Sphere Project guidelines.<sup>7</sup> The inclusion of efficient cookstoves in this Handbook reflects the growing recognition from humanitarian organizations of the risks associated with cooking-related needs.

Despite the attention and the positive steps, energy access is still unaccounted for in broader humanitarian assistance, including in the cluster system, which means that no one agency or organization is mandated by the United Nations (UN) and its partners to coordinate energy response in humanitarian crises.

#### **THE NEED FOR EVIDENCE ON THE LINK BETWEEN REDUCING GBV & CLEAN COOKING SOLUTIONS**

Overall, there is a general lack of quantitative evidence on the impact that cooking interventions can have in humanitarian settings, particularly as they relate to if and how increasing access to energy can actually reduce incidence and risk of GBV during firewood collection. A stronger evidence base on the relationship

between GBV and cookstove and fuel interventions can spur action among donors, policymakers, and other critical stakeholders, and increase the prioritization of energy for crisis-affected people.

In an effort to uncover existing quantitative data demonstrating whether cooking interventions reduced the risk and incidence of GBV, the Alliance conducted a literature review and project mapping (the results are published in the recently released white paper, [\*Cookstove and Fuel Projects and Gender-Based Violence in Humanitarian Settings\*](#)). The Alliance solicited information from 16 members of the SAFE Humanitarian Working Group and more than 70 other humanitarian organizations. Through this process, the Alliance collected information from more than 126 energy projects.

Of the 126 humanitarian cooking projects, 15 included reduction of GBV as an objective. Within these 15 projects, only one attempted to measure incidence of GBV before and after implementation. Four of the 15 projects measured other baseline indicators related to the risk of GBV, such as the number of collection trips, hours spent collecting firewood, and/or distance traveled, but only two of these then also measured the selected indicators at the end-line. In these two projects, the data showed that access to energy reduced factors related to GBV risks, namely the time spent collecting firewood and the number of collection trips. The UNHCR and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) Firewood Project in Dadaab in Kenya, the one project that measured incidence of GBV in both a baseline and end-line, found that provision of firewood to refugees resulted in fewer firewood collection trips, which then resulted in a reduced number of rapes occurring during firewood collection. However, given an increase in rapes within the camp overall, the number of total rapes in the camp did not significantly decrease during the implementation period.

Given that the vast majority of projects (86.7%) did not measure baseline and end-line data for any GBV-related indicators, the credible evidence base for which types of humanitarian energy programs reduce risk and incidence of GBV remains small, thus demonstrating the critical importance of research and rigorous evaluations of projects being implemented with an objective of reduction in GBV. Furthermore, there is a lack of understanding around which cooking interventions likely have the strongest protection impacts. For example, only providing firewood that meets household cooking needs may not address all GBV related to firewood collection. Additionally, research should examine unintended consequences of reducing firewood collection trips, such as an increase in intimate partner sexual and physical violence if women spend more times in their homes.

## **OBJECTIVE**

The Alliance will support research to evaluate and increase understanding of the links between clean and/or efficient cookstove and fuel interventions and GBV in humanitarian settings, with preference given to studies that take place in Rwanda. Up to \$200,000 will be available to support one study over a 12-month period, dependent on scope and scale of activities proposed.

Proposals must include or consider the following components:

1. The proposed research must contribute to the evidence base demonstrating if and how clean and/or efficient cookstove and/or fuel interventions impact risk and/or incidence of GBV. More specifically, the research must measure non-partner sexual and physical violence and/or attempted non-partner sexual and physical violence during firewood collection. Proposals that seek to measure incidence of non-partner sexual and physical violence during firewood collection are strongly encouraged. Proposals that consider the larger landscape of GBV in humanitarian settings and seek to understand potential unintended consequences, including for example intimate partner violence, will be prioritized.

2. Research that compares multiple cooking approaches in order to evaluate which types of interventions are more likely to impact GBV will be given preference. Variation in approach is not limited to different technologies or fuel types, but rather can include elements such as: comparing approaches that include additional interventions such as livelihood activities, GBV sensitization, engagement of the host community, etc.
3. Proposed methodology should include, at minimum, baseline assessments measuring GBV indicators prior to the start of a clean and/or efficient cooking project, and mid-line and end-line assessments to determine the impact of the interventions. Quantitative methods are required, but a mix of quantitative and qualitative methods is preferred.
4. Proposed research must take place in a humanitarian setting, such as a refugee camp, IDP settlement, or crisis-affected area. Preference will be given to proposals seeking to conduct research in Rwandan refugee camps. The evaluated cooking project can be implemented as part of the study, however it must build on or replicate previous interventions that have demonstrated effectiveness in user adoption, including correct and consistent use of the cookstove and/or fuel. Evaluated projects can also include existing cooking interventions that are being scaled to new beneficiaries.
5. Proposals must include training by the academic/research institution for the humanitarian implementing staff on developing and conducting quality baseline and end-line evaluations (including GBV indicators) to ensure continuous monitoring and evaluation. All materials (questionnaire, training program, etc.) should be made public and shared online for others to use when conducting humanitarian energy assessments on GBV indicators.

## **DATA**

### **TECHNOLOGIES TO BE EVALUATED**

Proposals should include performance information on the technologies and/or fuels included in the projects evaluated. Applicants are asked to adhere to requirements for testing released by the Alliance in [October 2015](#). The following guidelines for testing will apply:

- Preference will be given to applications that include technologies/fuel that have testing available that follow protocols that have been mapped to IWA tier ratings for laboratory testing, using the requirements specified in the [IWA](#). Information for specific testing methodologies and protocols are available on the [Alliance webpage](#).
- While there is no minimum level of performance for technologies/fuels used, applications that include higher performing technologies/fuels based on the IWA framework are preferable to those that include lower performing technologies/fuels.

### **GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE**

Applications must provide detailed information on indicators that will be used to measure risk and/or incidence of gender-based violence.

### **INVESTIGATIVE TEAM**

The investigative team must include a humanitarian organization and an academic or research institution. Implementing organizations must be either based in-country or demonstrate substantial local partnerships,

including a local co-principal investigator. Local provision of data/field activities alone will not be considered a demonstration of active local ownership of the research.

### **STUDY DURATION**

The period of performance for studies should not exceed 12 months, including 30 days for report writing, dependent on the scope and the scale of the proposals.

### **PROTECTION OF HUMAN SUBJECTS**

The institution receiving the research award is responsible for protecting the rights and welfare of human subjects. For all studies involving human subjects, applicants must submit written assurance for compliance with the guidelines established by the appropriate Institutional Review Board (IRB) or equivalent concerning the protection of human subjects before the research study begins. The following documentation must be submitted to the United Nations Foundation prior to the start of the study: 1) complete application submitted to IRB or equivalent; 2) consent forms to be used in the study, if applicable; and 3) a signed letter from the IRB or equivalent indicating that the study has been approved or exempted by the IRB.

### **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

Applicants must also be partners of the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves. For partnership details, and to register as a partner, visit <http://cleancookstoves.org/partners/register.html>.

## **APPLICATION PROCESS AND DEADLINES**

### **SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS**

#### **LETTERS OF INTENT**

Electronic letters of intent (LOI) are encouraged, but not mandatory. LOIs help the Alliance staff 1) ensure that applications received are responsive to RFAs and 2) plan for the application review process, including the identification of relevant expert reviewers. Applicants are encouraged to submit an LOI (maximum of 3 pages) summarizing their research goals, and briefly describing their proposed research methods.

**The deadline for submission of letters of intent is September 19, 2016.**

**Electronic copies of letters of intent should be sent to: [gender@cleancookstoves.org](mailto:gender@cleancookstoves.org)**

#### **FULL APPLICATION**

**The deadline for submission of applications is October 21, 2016.**

**Electronic copies of full applications should be sent to: [gender@cleancookstoves.org](mailto:gender@cleancookstoves.org)**

### **EVALUATION PROCESS**

Responses will be reviewed by the Alliance's technical staff and the external peer review panels. The Alliance convenes expert review panels for each funding announcement to technically evaluate and rank proposals. These panels are selected by the Alliance programmatic staff in consultation with the Executive Director, Advisory Committee members, and other relevant stakeholders. Submissions are screened internally to flag non-responsive or non-competitive applications.

The Alliance uses a standardized response template to facilitate direct comparisons among proposals during the evaluations process. In addition, when necessary, panel discussions may also be informed by written comments received from additional external peer reviewers to evaluate specific technical aspects of applications received. Given the interdisciplinary, inter-sectoral nature of the Alliance and its goals, final funding decisions will be made on the basis of technical merit as well as the relevance for scale up of interventions with demonstrated effectiveness in the field.

### **PROJECT NEGOTIATION AND MANAGEMENT**

In some cases, panels or the Alliance may request modifications in project scope, scale, and/or budget to ensure maximum responsiveness to the sector's needs and available funding.

### **GRANTS / CONTRACTS AGREEMENT**

The mechanism of funding may take the form of a grant or a contract, depending on the scope of the proposed project and/or the nature of proposed deliverables. Agreements will be made between the Grantee/Contractor and the United Nations Foundation.

Payments received by the Grantee/Contractor from UNF may be expended only for the purposes outlined in the approved scope of work, subject to any special conditions itemized below. No other uses are authorized without the express, written consent of UNF.

The Grantee/Contractor agrees that none of the funds covered by this Agreement shall be used to participate in, or intervene in any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for public office. If the project involves any lobbying activities, as defined by the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (the Code), the Grantee/Contractor represents that 1) funding is not earmarked for any lobbying activities and 2) the amount of funding, together with any other funding by UNF for the same project for the same year, does not exceed the amount budgeted (if any) for the year of funding, by the Grantee/Contractor for non-lobbying activities. If funding is for more than one year, the proceeding sentence applies to each year of funding with the amount of funding measured by the amount actually disbursed by UNF in each year.

## **REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

### **TECHNICAL REPORTS**

Progress on funded projects and activities will be periodically reviewed by a combination of Alliance staff and expert review panel members, with progress reports required bi-annually for projects under \$50,000 and quarterly for grants over \$50,000. Those projects that have secured multi-year funding must be current on their reporting requirements and have demonstrated acceptable progress in order to ensure subsequent year funding.

Final technical reports should be submitted within 30 days from the end of the grant term. These reports should include a brief summary of the study methods and results written for a nontechnical audience. Final reports will be reviewed by Alliance staff and expert review panel members, along with external peer reviewers, to assess the strengths and limitations of the studies, including study methods and approaches to analyses. In addition, reviewers will evaluate whether reported results / conclusions are adequately supported by the available evidence. Depending on the reviewer comments received, investigators will be asked to make revisions to their final reports within a reasonable time frame mutually agreed upon by the investigators and the Alliance programmatic staff.

### **PROGRAMMATIC REPORTS**

The Alliance also requires an annual or final report within 30 days from the end of the funding term. This report needs to: i) describe in narrative fashion what was achieved with the funds; and ii) provide a full financial accounting of the funds.

#### **I. Narrative Report**

Each narrative report should, in five (5) pages or less, summarize how the grant funds were used and the results that were achieved. The report will be used by Alliance staff to evaluate and provide an overview of your work to the Alliance's advisory board. Reports should include the following:

- a. Description of any notable progress and accomplishments, and describe any relevant activities that contributed substantially to these successes.
- b. Description of challenges or obstacles that were experienced during the reporting phase. Were these challenges outlined in the original grant proposal? Describe how these challenges were addressed and if it is possible to prevent them from reoccurring.
- c. Description of tangible results of the project to date.



- d. Copies of significant publications, including manuscripts, reports, books or media productions that stem from your efforts in connection with this grant.

## II. Financial Report

Each financial report should be as detailed as possible and include the following:

- a. A line item comparison of budgeted versus actual expenses as they relate *specifically to this grant/contract*.
- b. A statement certifying that all funds were expended for the purposes of the grant/contract. If the entire funds have not been expended, an explanation of why funds were not spent should be provided. At the end of the project, any unexpended amount should be returned.
- c. An explanation of any variance from the project budget submitted with your original proposal.

## OTHER REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

1. **Studies Involving Human Subjects:** Protecting the rights of human subjects is the responsibility of grantees. For all studies involving human subjects, applicants must submit written assurance for compliance with the guidelines established by the appropriate Institutional Review Board (IRB) or equivalent concerning the protection of human subjects.
2. The Grantee/ Contractor will cooperate with the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves, on behalf of the United Nations Foundation (UNF), in supplying any information or complying with any procedures which might be required by any governmental agency in order for UNF to establish the fact that it has observed all requirements of the law with respect to the grant.
3. **Site Visits:** Site visits may also be required to ensure compliance with Alliance goals and objectives. The Alliance, on behalf of the United Nations Foundation, may monitor and conduct formal evaluations of operations under the grant/contract, which may include a visit from Alliance personnel to observe your projects and programs and to review financial and other records and materials connected with activities supported by the grant/contract. The Grantee/Contractor agrees to keep accurate and complete books and records of receipts and expenditures using funds for at least four (4) years after the completion of use of the project and will make these books and records available to the Alliance and UNF for inspection as reasonably required from the time of the Grantee's/Contractor's acceptance.

## COMMUNICATION OF RESULTS

The Alliance is committed to ensuring that results will inform the sector, as well as advance the adoption of cleaner, more efficient cooking technologies. The Alliance will work with funded investigators to ensure that study progress and results are widely disseminated, and profiled at technical meetings as relevant. All materials, reports, and results of Alliance grants will be available for dissemination to the public, i.e. through the Alliance website, newsletters, and webinars. In addition to preparing Alliance reports, investigators are encouraged to publish in open-access, peer-reviewed literature. The Alliance has the right to ensure that study results are made publically available in a timely and transparent process, while ensuring intellectual property rights of investigators, as well as subject and manufacturer confidentiality as required.

## DATA ACCESS

The Alliance reserves the right to request access to any data collected as part of Alliance-funded activities as needed in order to ensure data quality.

## **APPLICATION MATERIALS**

Application forms are available online at <http://cleancookstoves.org/funding-opportunities/>

### **1. Cover Sheet**

### **2. Project Plan**

While no specific application form is provided for the project plan, investigators must adhere to the guidelines described below. The project plan should not exceed the page limitations for each section, using 11-point font size or larger, and 1 inch margins. Appendices may be provided for supplementary materials as relevant, but review will be based mainly on the information provided in the project plan.

Project Summary / Abstract

Section A. Background and Objectives (1 page)

Section B. Significance of Research (1 page)

Section C. Description of Investigative Team (1 page)

Include Organizational Qualifications as Relevant

Section D. Related Previous Studies (1 page)

Section E. Research Plan and Methods (not to exceed 10 pages)

Section F. Literature Cited

### **3. Biosketch**

Fill in one for each proposed team member, as well as key subcontractors / subgrantees / consultants.

### **4. Budget and Narrative Budget Justification**

Fill in the budget form provided. The narrative budget justification should include descriptions of the specific roles, responsibilities, and compensation for all project investigators and consultants, as well as detailed descriptions of proposed travel, supplies, and equipment to be purchased. Note that indirect cost estimates may not exceed 13%. In addition, sub-contract expenses should not be included in indirect cost calculations.

## **ADDITIONAL SUBMISSIONS**

### **5. Subcontracts**

Letters from each proposed consultant / subcontractor confirming their agreement to collaborate must be provided.

### **6. Data Provision**

All agreements for data provision must be confirmed in writing, on official letterhead, from potential collaborators. Where appropriate, particularly for routinely collected sources of data, applicants are strongly encouraged to provide sample data (stripped of key identifiers) demonstrating the availability and adequacy of proposed data sources.

#### 7. Protection of Human Subjects

The institution receiving the research award is responsible for protecting the rights and welfare of human subjects. For all studies involving human subjects, applicants must submit written assurance for compliance with the guidelines established by the appropriate Institutional Review Board (IRB) or equivalent concerning the protection of human subjects before the research study begins. The following documentation must be submitted to the United Nations Foundation prior to the start of the study: 1) complete application submitted to IRB or equivalent; 2) consent forms to be used in the study, if applicable; and 3) a signed letter from the IRB or equivalent indicating that the study has been approved or exempted by the IRB.

#### **QUESTIONS ABOUT RFA**

Questions should be sent by email to [gender@cleancookstoves.org](mailto:gender@cleancookstoves.org).

## REFERENCES

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- <sup>1</sup> World Health Organization. 2014. Burden of disease from household air pollution 2012.
- <sup>2</sup> World Energy Outlook. 2010. World Energy Outlook. International Atomic Energy Agency.
- <sup>3</sup> (2016). Global Trends: Forced displacement in 2015. UNHCR. Retrieved from <http://www.unhcr.org/576408cd7>.
- <sup>4</sup> (2015). Global estimates 2015: People displaced by disasters. IDMC. Retrieved <http://www.internal-displacement.org/assets/library/Media/201507-globalEstimates-2015/20150713-global-estimates-2015-en-v1.pdf>.
- <sup>5</sup> (2014). *Light Years Ahead Project: Monitoring & Evaluation System and Baseline Survey Report*. UNHCR.
- Note:* Figure is an average of the walking time data from LYA assessments in Chad, Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda, and Rwanda refugee camps.
- <sup>6</sup> History of SAFE. SAFE. Retrieved on August 4, 2016 from <http://www.safefuelandenergy.org/about/history.cfm>.
- <sup>7</sup> Cooking is included in “Non-food items standard 3”. For more information see the Sphere Handbook: <http://www.spherehandbook.org/en/non-food-items-standard-3-cooking-and-eating-utensils/>.