REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS:
CLEAN COOKING AND UNPAID WORK: MEASURING TIME SAVINGS FROM ADOPTION OF CLEAN AND EFFICIENT COOKSTOVES AND FUELS

(RFQ 17-4)
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 millions of premature deaths annually, with women and young children the most affected.¹ In sub-Saharan Africa and Asia, the lack of access to clean cookstoves and fuels 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.²

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 attack while collecting fuel. Inefficient cookstoves also contribute to global emissions of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide and short-lived climate pollutants such black carbon aerosols.

The Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves (Alliance) is an innovative public-private partnership hosted by the United Nations 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 ’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 half of the world’s population – especially girls and women – necessitate an immediate and concerted response from the global research, policy, and donor communities.

ALLIANCE GENDER RESEARCH AND EVALUATION PRIORITIES

The Alliance commissions research on the gender and social impacts of clean cooking solutions, the impact women can have on scaling adoption, and the most effective approaches for women’s empowerment and adoption. The Alliance partnered with the International Center for Research on Women (ICRW) to design and develop a monitoring and evaluation tool for measuring the social and economic impacts of the clean cookstoves and fuels sector. The Alliance, ICRW, and the Alliance’s Social Impact Steering Committee, comprised of key experts and stakeholders including investors, researchers, livelihoods experts, advocates, implementers, and energy experts, developed a conceptual framework, indicators, and methodologies to measure the social impacts created by the clean cooking sector.

Conducting research on time use and the impact on women’s income, health, and education from the use of cleaner and more efficient cooking is a priority for the Alliance and its partners. It is critical that partners in the clean cooking sector, among others, use validated and consistent methods for measuring time use in order to make the case for the importance of clean cooking solutions in reducing unpaid care work and promoting economic inclusion and women’s empowerment. The Social Impact Measurement System (www.cleancookstoves.org/socialimpact) is a tool that can be used in applied research and project implementation to better understand the benefits that clean cooking solutions bring to end users, employees, and entrepreneurs in the sector.

¹ World Health Organisation (2014) Burden of disease from Household Air Pollution 2012
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS:
MEASURING THE IMPACT OF CLEAN AND EFFICIENT COOKSTOVES AND FUELS USE ON UNPAID WORK

BACKGROUND

Recent global reports focusing on unpaid work and women’s empowerment highlight the significant impact that cooking and fuel collection have on women’s time. A 2011 OECD report on unpaid work states that globally, most unpaid work is spent on cooking and cleaning, and that in developing countries, a significant portion of this time is spent collecting firewood and water. The same report notes that on average, women spend four times more hours cooking compared to men. In its study of how unpaid care work reinforces inequality and stymies economic productivity, the McKinsey Global Institute states that much of women’s unpaid work hours are spent on fuel collection and cooking. An Alliance study in India found that women spend four hours on average cooking each day when using traditional stoves. The UN Secretary General’s High-Level Panel on Women’s Economic Empowerment asserts that access to energy (such as clean fuels and cookstoves) is a proven and promising way to reduce unpaid care work.

Introducing cleaner and more efficient stoves and alternative fuels can significantly reduce the time women spend on unpaid work related to meal preparation through faster cooking times and reduced firewood collection trips, as well as promote financial savings in the long term through cost-efficient fuels. The time and income recovered from these activities could allow more space and opportunity for activities that improve the well-being of women and girls and help to lift them out of poverty.

OBJECTIVE

The Alliance is seeking to identify qualified partners to help improve the sector’s understanding of the impacts on girls and women’s livelihoods, well-being, and education through cleaner and more efficient cooking as well as potential opportunities to leverage ongoing efforts with a more intensive focus on time poverty. **Contingent of approval of funding,** up to $150,000 may be available over an 18-month period to test the impact of using higher quality stoves and fuels on women and girls’ time use. Results will be used to determine the existing burden related to fuel collection and cooking, the time that can be saved, as well as how time saved is used – whether for productive uses, education, leisure, or other activities. The study will also examine indicators such as income, household expenditures on fuel, and school attendance.

This Request for Qualifications seeks qualified partners currently actively engaged in a) ongoing clean and efficient cookstoves and fuels distribution programs with the potential to assess impacts on time poverty in the near future; and/or b) livelihood generation activities for women and/or education activities for adolescent girls that could potentially add on a clean cooking intervention and assess impacts on time poverty. Partners must demonstrate the capability to leverage ongoing monitoring and evaluation efforts to collect additional data around time use, income, household expenditures, and education.

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EXPECTED DELIVERABLES

Subject to the availability of funds, the Alliance is interested in supporting project(s) to evaluate the impact of clean and efficient cookstoves and fuels on time poverty, and how the introduction of clean cooking solutions can improve the lives of women and girls. This would involve measuring the baseline and short-term impacts of adopting cleaner cooking technologies. Expected deliverables from the full project would likely include:

- Baseline survey and data analysis
- Introduction of higher quality stoves and/or fuels
- Endline survey and data analysis
- Final research report sharing methods and findings
- Knowledge and learning workshop to present findings

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Partners actively working in the clean cookstoves and fuels sector and/or actively engaged in livelihoods activities for women and/or education activities for girls, that could be paired with a clean cooking intervention are eligible to respond. Of particular interest are programs underway in Bangladesh, China, Ghana, Guatemala, Haiti, India, Kenya, Nepal, Nigeria, and Uganda.
- Organizations can include but are not limited to for-profit companies, social enterprises, foundations, non-profits, universities, research institutes, faith-based institutions.
- While investigative teams must demonstrate the technical and human capacity to execute the proposed project, we recognize that not all teams will have direct experience in all required areas of expertise. As such, a partnership or consortia model is encouraged in order to leverage required expertise to carry out all aspects of the potential project. There will be opportunities during the proposal development period to consider whether additional resources and/or expertise in measuring time use and other social and economic impacts may be required from the Alliance and/or other partners to supplement institutional capacity.
- Respondents must be current partners of the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves. For partnership details, and to register as a partner, visit http://cleancookstoves.org/partners/.

TECHNOLOGIES TO BE EVALUATED: Only studies assessing how the use of demonstrably efficient cooking technologies (i.e. those with the potential to reduce the time associated with biomass fuel collection and/or cooking) will be considered. Preference will be given to applications that include technologies/fuels 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. Applicants are required to submit any available testing results with the application.

STUDY LOCATION: The Alliance will give strong preference for partners operating in Bangladesh, China, Ghana, Guatemala, Haiti, India, Kenya, Nepal, Nigeria, and Uganda, but organizations operating in other countries may also apply. Of particular interest are locations where women and girls are spending significant amounts of time collecting and/or processing fuel.
APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Please describe your experience conducting field-based social and economic impact research, and technical expertise in the distribution of clean and/or efficient cookstoves and/or fuels. Discuss any partnerships that will play a key role in the intervention (e.g. businesses and manufacturers, NGOs, research institutes, clean cooking experts, gender experts, etc.).

Opportunities to leverage ongoing efforts to scale up clean cooking are welcome. Please provide detailed description of relevant projects in section B.

Statements of qualification (maximum of 5 pages, 11 point font, single-spaced, plus appendices) should include:

A. General description of partner, including organizational qualifications as relevant (1 page)
B. Overview of proposed study and intervention, including geographic location, target population, specifications of technologies to be used, impact indicators and measurement methodologies, key implementing partners (as applicable) (1 page)
C. Description of Qualified Team Members (1 page)
D. Description of Related Previous Projects (1 page)
E. Description of Related Ongoing Projects: (1 page)

Required Attachments (not included in the page limit):

1. Biosketches of qualified team members (use attached template)
2. 1 page overview of the institution
3. Available testing results for proposed cookstove and/or fuel technologies
4. Qualifications of additional key partners, as relevant

PROCESS AND DEADLINES

SUBMISSION OF QUALIFICATIONS

The deadline for submission of qualifications is Tuesday August 15th 11:59 pm EDT. Submissions should be sent to gender@cleancookstoves.org.

EVALUATION PROCESS AND NEXT STEPS

Upon vetting and approval of potential applicants, and confirmation of funding, selected applicant(s) will be invited to develop detailed project plans and corresponding budgets.

QUESTIONS ABOUT RFQ

Questions should be sent by email to: gender@cleancookstoves.org prior to the submission deadline.
**KEY PERSONNEL BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

(2 page max per person)

Name  (last, first, middle)

Title

Organization

**Education / Training**
List in chronological order, beginning with baccalaureate or similar professional training. Include postdoctoral training as applicable

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**Research and/or Professional Experience**
List in chronological order, including titles, major responsibilities, and any honors/awards received

**Selected Peer-reviewed Publications**

**Research Support**
List both ongoing and completed projects for the past five years, including a brief description of the project and responsibilities