



The Problem

More than three billion people rely on fuels like wood, charcoal, coal, and kerosene to cook their food every day. Cooking this way leads to dangerous levels of smoke exposure, killing up to four million people annually, with women and children being particularly vulnerable. Lack of access to clean cooking solutions has significant consequences for women and girls. Not only does cooking endanger their health from inhaling toxic smoke, but they may be removed from school because of domestic work like firewood collection, and walk ever-greater distances carrying heavy loads due to forest degradation. In conflict settings, women face an increased vulnerability to physical attack when leaving their communities or refugee camps in search of fuels. Yet women are not just victims: they are critical to the widespread adoption and use of clean cooking solutions.

The Solution

Providing women access to modern energy is a critical but often overlooked means of empowering women at a household level and advancing gender equality. With clean cooking technologies, a woman could reduce or eliminate her exposure to household air pollution; cut down on cooking time; eliminate or reduce the number of trips she makes to fetch firewood; and be able to leverage the time saved to engage in productive economic activities, pursue educational opportunities, or simply rest.

Women play a critical role in increasing awareness and generating demand for clean cooking solutions, partly as a result of their networks and community relationships. The clean cooking value chain also offers new pathways for women's economic empowerment, providing opportunities for women entrepreneurs to contribute to a thriving global industry for clean cooking.

Gender Aspects of Cooking

- **Up to 10 hours a week** is the amount of time that women and children in developing countries can spend gathering fuel.
- **42% of households reported incidents of gender-based violence** during firewood collection in Chad over a six-month period.
- **Women entrepreneurs sold 3x more stoves** than their male counterparts following an empowerment training for women and men.

What is CCA doing to address the issue?

- **1,000+ women entrepreneurs supported** through grants and capacity building.
- **25+ case studies** on gender best practices.
- **30+ enterprises supported** to integrate gender into their business plans and supply chains.

Priorities for Action

CCA's gender strategy seeks to increase the role of women in scaling up the adoption of clean cooking technologies:

- 1 Build evidence and share data** on how clean cooking addresses gender equality and women's empowerment, as well as how gender-informed approaches provide a return on investment for clean cooking businesses.
- 2 Provide targeted, gender-focused capacity building**, training, and tools to support women entrepreneurs and to help partners address gender issues and integrate women in the clean cooking sector.
- 3 Advocate and raise awareness** for clean cooking among gender and youth organizations, and ensure that global frameworks and initiatives address the gender implications of energy use.
- 4 Provide financing for gender equality** by working with partners to make targeted grant investments in women-owned enterprises and companies employing gender-informed business models.
- 5 Prioritize clean cooking policies** as a central component of sustainable development efforts.

Clean Cooking and the SDGs

Universal access to clean cooking is integral to improving health, enhancing livelihoods, protecting the climate and the environment, and advancing women's empowerment – all of which are vital to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Studies show that time poverty due to unpaid domestic work is a major barrier to women's empowerment and broader economic development. Cooking and fuel collection are key components of unpaid work and thus must be addressed if we are to reach SDG 5 (achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls).



For more information, please visit CCA online at
www.CleanCookingAlliance.org



About the Clean Cooking Alliance

CCA works with a global network of partners to build an inclusive industry that makes clean cooking accessible to the three billion people who live each day without it. Established in 2010, CCA is driving consumer demand, mobilizing investment to build a pipeline of scalable businesses, and fostering an enabling environment that allows the sector to thrive. Clean cooking transforms lives by improving health, protecting the climate and the environment, empowering women, and helping consumers save time and money.

