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**UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FOR
ALL 2014-2019: A MID-POINT REVIEW**

'ANSWERING THE CLEAN COOKING CHALLENGE'

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STATS AND PROGRESS

- 38% of the global population, and almost 50% of the population in developing countries lack access to clean cooking, relying on solid biomass, coal, and kerosene (IEA, 2017; WHO, 2016)
- Polluting fuels used for cooking in 75% of HHs in rural communities across the world, 91% of rural households in Africa, and 82% rural households in the Western Pacific (IEA, 2017).
- IAP causes an estimated 3.8 million premature deaths per year, with women and children most at risk (MD 2019).
- Africa alone accounts for about 600,000 deaths each year as a result of HH IAP (Africa Progress Panel, 2015), Approximately 60% of these victims are women (ESMAP, 2011; IRENA 2013 cited in UN Women 2017).
- IAP have long lasting effects on general health and well-being: early exposure to IAP during childhood may stifle lung development, suggesting that the cost of this pollution may continue later in life.
- It is primarily women and children who spend on average 1.4 hours a day collecting solid fuels (i.e., wood, crop wastes, charcoal, coal or dung) and several hours cooking with inefficient stoves.
- Where women are not involved in paid work, and with gender inequity in social norms and within household decision making, choices for energy often do not prioritise women's time saved (MSSRF and CRT Nepal (2019) [Gender-in-the-transition-to-sustainable-energy-for-all](#))

CHALLENGES

- Large scale power projects prioritized over provision of energy for clean cooking. Large scale energy infrastructure projects do not by nature target the marginalized/ women/ poor rural households.
- The poor could never afford 30 – 50 USD clean stoves for cooking!
- Global warming (heat waves) has led to exposure to extreme heat for women cooking in open fires.
- Countries where indoor air pollution appears not to be an issue e.g. open fire cooking, may not feel the urgency to deploy clean cooking solutions.
- Corrupt practices, government dominance over the market, lack of sustainable long-term clean energy development plans, and unfit investment environment, are some of the reasons for deteriorating energy state in any developing country.
- Who is holding governments to account for implementation of clean cooking solutions?

GOOD PRACTICES

- Ministerial declaration of HLPF 2018: ‘We call upon governments and all stakeholders to make clean cooking solutions a priority’.
- Nigeria has started to promote the efforts of the Coalition by targeting SLCPs in the Oil and Gas Sector, reducing Black Carbon by the introduction of a National Clean Cooking Scheme
- Efforts by CSOs across africa in raising awareness and promoting citizen's access to off grid and clean cooking solutions are one of the best practices that can be upscaled.
- Promoting women’s entrepreneurship in clean cooking solutions e.g Solar Sisters,
- SSA countries lead in incorporating gender in their energy policies ([energizing equality report/](#)) but this may not have translated into concrete actions on the ground.
- Good governance is vital to ensure uninterrupted, reliable, affordable and clean

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Capacity building is crucial: communities, women, youth, IPPs, policy makers, CSO, private sector, universities, etc. should understand why there is a need for a cleaner environment, what energy represents in their individual life, and economy.
- Capacities in all domains, education, sensitization, information, knowledge sharing mechanisms, technical, organizational, financial, technological, innovations
- Ensure rights based approach in addressing cooking solutions. Lack of clean cooking solutions impugns on the right to life.
- Each stage of *energy planning and policy-making* needs to factor in gender dimensions and actively support and advance women's rights to meet SDG 7 and SDG 5
- *Support clean cooking fuels and technologies*: National governments should be encouraged and supported to demonstrate greater political and financial commitment to ensure that all households switch to clean fuels and stoves. Government in developing countries could subsidize clean cooking solutions in HHs.
- Financial allocations / commitments have to be made for capacity building of rural women to address this issue.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Need for programmes to address environmental impacts: Using traditional biomass stoves for household cooking in developing countries requires extensive local fuel collection and is linked to local environmental problems
- *Support energy democracy.* Reverse top-down energy production, distribution, and control so that women, HHs and communities can drive energy interventions and make decisions that work for them.
- Government and relevant stakeholders should support gender responsive policies and laws and ensure gender aware implementation.
- Target poor women specifically – empower them to make energy choices e.g. through providing subsidy on their bank account (PMUY India)
- After purchase of appliance, affordability of sustained use is crucial (MSSRF and CRT Nepal (2019)
- Countries to ensure drafting policies enhancing energy good governance and sustainability: local, national, international or corporate involvement in specific mechanisms have to be maintained to ensure the proper formulation of policies and

Thank You!