



**Gender and Clean Cooking Solutions: 3rd Annual Workshop on Advancing SE4All Country Action in Africa**



# The Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves will create a thriving market for clean cookstoves and fuels.

## PROBLEM

Every day,  
**3 BILLION**  
**PEOPLE**  
(500 million households)  
rely on solid fuels to  
power their rudimentary  
stoves



which leads to...

- 4,300,000 deaths annually
- Wasted productivity
- Climate, forestry & other environmental degradation
- Up to 25% of global black carbon emissions
- Health & economic burdens that disproportionately impact women & girls



## MISSION

- SAVE LIVES
- IMPROVE LIVELIHOODS
- EMPOWER WOMEN
- PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT



## GOAL



**100**  
**MILLION**  
**HOUSEHOLDS**  
**ADOPT CLEAN AND**  
**EFFICIENT**  
**COOKSTOVES &**  
**FUELS BY 2020**

# The Impact on Women and Girls

- **Time poverty – up to 5 hours a day spent on collecting fuel and cooking -- (75% of the world total unpaid care is undertaken by women, McKinsey 2015)**
- **Poverty – households can spend up to 1/3 of their income on fuel**
- **Drudgery – carrying heavy loads of up to 20kg**
- **Vulnerability to violence -- for example, in 2014 in Uganda's Nakivale refugee camp, 41% of households reported incidences of violence during firewood collection in the past six months.**
- **Health effects – exposure levels to harmful smoke up to 100x that recommended by the WHO**

# Access to cooking energy is being recognized as critical for achieving gender equality

- In their [World Survey of the Role of Women in Development](#) , UN Women calls for increased investment in cookstoves and recognizes access to cooking energy as a means to directly improving gender equality.
- UN Women launched a gender and energy initiative at the COP
- The International Center for the Research on Women states that [women's access to clean energy is essential for gender equitable development](#)
- Women for Women International, Women Deliver, and Women Thrive Worldwide are actively engaging in the sector in order to achieve their gender equality and empowerment missions
- US State Dept investing over \$5m in wPOWER initiative to scale women's energy entrepreneurship

# The Alliance has a four pronged gender strategy to increase impact on women and girls and scale adoption



**Increase the evidence of the specific gender impacts in the sector entrepreneurship needs**

**Enable financing for gender components of cookstove projects and women entrepreneurs**

**Strengthen capacity of implementing organizations to address gender and women's**

**Advocate for and influence policies through awareness raising and advocacy**

# There is solid emerging evidence that cleaner and more efficient stoves can support gender equality and that women are critical for scaling adoption

- Kenyan Johns Hopkins RCT:
  - ▶ Women sold 3x as many stoves as men
  - ▶ Users who bought a cookstove from women reported high customer satisfaction – they were more likely to use it predominantly, consistently, and were more likely to recommend the stove to others
  - ▶ Women who received additional empowerment training were nearly 3x more likely to be high sellers.
- Alliance/Practical Action Indian Research Study:
  - ▶ Women saved significant time when using improved cookstoves. They use this time for social and family activities, attend community meetings, watch tv, monitor children's studies
  - ▶ Households with clean cookstoves reported sending their children to school more often.
  - ▶ Female-headed households are more likely to adopt cleaner cooking solutions than male-headed households.
  - ▶ Women who are part of social groups are more likely to own an improved cookstove or use cleaner fuels.
- Mercy Corps Uganda gendered market research demonstrates women consumers are critical segment:
  - ▶ Urban, female charcoal users with some independent source of income are likely to purchase cookstoves
  - ▶ Women small business owners, employees and savings groups members all have access to cash to purchase cookstoves.
  - ▶ Married women firewood users in households dependent on ag or dependent on husband's income least likely to purchase.

# Leading enterprises are scaling up their gender approaches because evidence shows they are more effective

- In Nigeria, Envirofit piloted empowerment & business training to strengthen entrepreneurship and they are now scaling it throughout global operations (next: Kenya, India)
- Paradigm Project piloted recruitment and retention strategies for women sales agents. Results convinced them to include women as a central component of their distribution strategy.
- Sustainable Green Fuels Enterprise in Cambodia is implementing gender strategy to ensure retention of female factory workers.
- Eco Fuel Africa in Uganda has grown their network of briquette retailers to 580 women - most of whom were previously unemployed – in order to scale sales



# Ongoing Alliance applied research & evaluation of gender & livelihoods impacts

- Commission research on most effective approaches for women's empowerment & adoption
- Research and evaluation of approaches to understand gender and socio-economic impacts
  - M&E methodologies and tools to measure socio-economic impacts with ICRW will be launched in April
- Quantify benefits for businesses who increase women's engagement
- Quantify benefits of increased women's engagement on sustained adoption of clean cooking technologies
- Special focus: understanding gender and livelihood impacts and drivers in humanitarian settings





# Lessons for African SE4All Partners

- **We know what works and we need to scale it up.**
  - ✓ Utilize proven approaches and take action to expand sustainable energy access.
  - ✓ The Alliance's market-based gender-informed approach to creating a thriving market for clean and efficient cookstoves and fuels is working.
  - ✓ Financing mechanisms, toolkits, curricula, online tools, and other resources have proven to be effectively bolstering the capacity of the clean cooking sector and enabling sustainable adoption.
  - ✓ Use social impact M&E framework to measure impact consistently
- **Recruit / retain women entrepreneurs**
  - ✓ Support capacity building for women based on needs assessments
  - ✓ Combine training with ongoing support and mentorship
- **Mainstream gender throughout value chain, not just a focus on users**
- **Integrate clean cooking into programming and financing mechanisms.**
  - ✓ Countries, implementing organizations, investors, and companies should all mainstream gender through their energy access approaches.
  - ✓ Women's distribution is central to scaling the sector .

# Opportunities for SE4All and its Partners

- **Build on momentum around gender and energy and continue to mainstream gender throughout SE4ALL strategy**
- **Share evidence on gender and empowerment widely throughout entire energy sector**
- **Ensure access to finance for women entrepreneurs and gender-informed approaches and attract gender-lens investors to the energy sector.**
- **Advocate for prioritization and inclusion of energy access in global gender agenda amongst influential gender organizations and donors**
- **Directly link energy access to SDG goal 5 on gender equality through targeted international and national advocacy**
- **Create gender and energy working group with specific objective to ensure gender is considered throughout all SE4All activities**
- **Mainstream gender throughout SE4All country strategies and implementation**