

ACCESS Coalition Calls for New Approaches to Unlock Clean Cooking Progress

Clean Cooking Week in Kenya is a moment to reflect on progress on reaching Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7 on sustainable energy for all, at home and globally. At the half-way mark to achieving the SDGs, both the electricity and clean cooking targets remain out of reach by 2030. Progress on clean cooking access is being outpaced by population growth.¹

About 2.3 billion people globally lack access to clean cooking and use polluting fuels and technologies for their cooking, endangering their health and causing environmental destruction. Women and children are particularly impacted. In 2022, about 3.2 million deaths were linked to household air pollution caused by cooking fuels and technologies.² The indicator on the proportion of the global population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology for cooking is off-track.

In 2021, four out of ten people without access to clean cooking lived in Africa. The cooking sector in Sub-Saharan Africa is heavily reliant on biomass fuels. If progress continues to stagnate, 60 percent of the population will still lack access to clean cooking in 2030.³

High energy costs and supply chain issues linked to the Ukraine conflict, combined with the impact of COVID-19 pandemic, have seen more people sink into energy poverty and **compounded the challenges of delivering clean cooking access.**

In this context, the Alliance of Civil Society Organizations for Clean Energy Access (ACCESS), a global coalition of more than 100 organizations, is calling urgently for new approaches:

1. A significant shift to **needs-based planning approaches backed up by good data.** Household and community cooking preferences are driven by their social and cultural context, and by affordability.⁴ Most low-income households in rural and peri-urban areas rely on biomass for cooking.
2. Understanding end users' needs and context as the foundation of designing **socially and financially viable solutions and transition pathways.** This must include consideration of increased public investment to de-risk markets in hard-to-reach areas, and targeted subsidies for the poorest.⁵
3. A **greater role for CSOs and trusted community organizations.** They can help demystify cultural beliefs and practices, and build trust in new technologies and approaches.
4. Accelerating the opportunity to **"leapfrog" to electric cooking** in countries with good grid coverage through investments in grid reliability, enabling policies and access to appliances. 68 percent of Kenya's population have an electricity connection that is "cooking ready" but only one percent of the population use electricity as their primary cooking fuel.⁶

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- 1 IEA, IRENA, UNSD, World Bank, WHO. (2022). Tracking SDG 7: The Energy Progress Report 2022. <https://trackingsdg7.esmap.org/>
 - 2 Ibid
 - 3 Ibid
 - 4 Garside B, Wykes S. (2017). Planning pro-poor energy services for maximum impact: The Energy Delivery Model Toolkit. <https://www.iied.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/migrate/16638IIED.pdf>
 - 5 CAFOD, EED Advisory, the Overseas Development Institute (ODI), SEforALL. (2020). Energy Safety Nets Policy Brief: Kenya Case Study. https://www.seforall.org/system/files/2020-02/ESN_Kenya_Policy-SEforALL.pdf
 - 6 Factsheets – Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania. <https://mecs.org.uk/resources/factsheets/factsheets-kenya-malawi-tanzania/>

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