

INDIA FACTSHEET



THE ISSUE

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 more than 4 million premature deaths, including more than 1.2 million deaths in India, every year.

Exposure to smoke from cooking contributes to a range of chronic illnesses and acute health impacts such as early childhood pneumonia, emphysema, cataracts, lung cancer, bronchitis, cardiovascular disease, and low birth weight. Women and young children are the most affected, with more than 100,000 children in India dying every year as a result of acute lower respiratory infections caused by the use of solid fuels.

Sixty-four percent of India's population relies on solid fuel for their household cooking needs. Reliance on biomass for cooking and heating leads to environmental degradation through increased pressure on local natural resources, and forces women and children to spend many hours each week collecting wood. Inefficient cooking contributes to climate change through emissions of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide and methane, and aerosols such as black carbon. As much as 30% of India's outdoor pollution is a result of indoor air pollution from cooking and heating.

THE SOLUTION

The use of cleaner and more efficient cookstoves and fuels can dramatically reduce exposure to harmful cookstove smoke, provide a myriad of economic opportunities for Indians, and help reduce forest degradation and slow climate change. More efficient cookstoves cleaner fuels also reduce the time people—usually women and girls—spend collecting fuel, freeing up time for income generating activities or schoolwork.

The economic opportunities created by the clean cookstove and fuels supply-chain could be transformational for India. Whether stoves and fuels are domestically produced or imported, local business partners are needed for distribution, sales, and the service of stoves, as well as the supply of processed fuels where appropriate. A thriving industry for clean cooking solutions helps create jobs and improve livelihoods, while also empowering women and promoting gender equality through entrepreneurship.

BY THE NUMBERS*



64%
of population relies
on solid fuels

830 million
people affected

170 million
households affected

1.2 million
deaths per year
from exposure to household
air pollution

100,000
child deaths per year
from exposure to household
air pollution

TOP PRIORITIES

- Strengthen sustained use of LPG within the current large scale PMUY program to enhance adoption and impact, through a consortium of partners
- Support the development of low-emission biomass cookstoves, including pellets, in more agriculturally-based communities
- Explore solar battery capture for cooking
- Expand community-level behaviour change campaigns to increase the demand and use of clean cooking solutions by rural households
- Scale interventions around improved biomass technologies, LPG, and electricity
- Advocate nationally for the higher prioritization of addressing clean cooking SDGs
- Enhance affordability and increase access to finance for clean cooking solutions
- Remove last mile distribution barriers that hinder access to cookstoves and fuels

LATEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Engaged with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, in collaboration with UNICEF and WHO, to develop a strategy for including clean cooking as part of India's integrated Action Plan for Prevention of Pneumonia and Diarrhea
- Formed strategic partnerships with Tata Trusts, Indian Council for Medical Research, The Energy and Resources Institute, SEWA, Indian Corporates, and others, as part of the overall approach in India
- Greenway Appliances set up a full-fledged factory through the Alliance's Spark Grant program and has become the country's largest stove manufacturer

CLEAN COOKING FORUM 2017

Co-hosted by the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves, Tata Trusts, and TERI, the Clean Cooking Forum 2017 gathers people from all around the world to share best practices, build capacity and forge new partnerships through informative sessions, networking, site visits, and clean cooking demonstrations. The Forum will take place at the India Habitat Centre in New Delhi, India from October 24-28, learn more at www.cleancooking2017.org.

