GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR CLEAN COOKSTOVES

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SAVE LIVES | IMPROVE LIVELIHOODS | EMPOWER WOMEN | COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE

THE CHALLENGE

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 1.9 million premature deaths annually, with women and young children the most affected. Reliance on biomass for cooking and heating, forces women and children to spend hours each week collecting wood. Women face severe personal security risks as they forage for fuel, especially from refugee camps and in conflict zones. Cookstoves also increase pressures on local natural resources (e.g., forests, habitat) and contribute to climate change at the regional and global level.

THE SOLUTION

The use of clean cookstoves and fuels can dramatically reduce fuel consumption and exposure to cookstove smoke. Development of a global clean cookstove industry that is constantly innovating to improve design and performance, while lowering the cost of stoves, can lead the way to widespread adoption of clean cooking solutions.

THE ALLIANCE

The Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves is a new public-private partnership to save lives, improve livelihoods, empower women, and combat climate change by creating a thriving global market for clean and efficient household cooking solutions. The Alliance's '100 by 20' goal calls for 100 million homes to adopt clean and efficient stoves and fuels by 2020. The Alliance will work with public, private, and non-profit partners to help overcome the market barriers that currently impede the production, deployment, and use of clean cookstoves in the developing world.

BY THE NUMBERS

4

Indoor air pollution is the fourth biggest health risk in the developing world.

1.9 Million

Number of people who die worldwide each year from exposure to cookstove smoke.

3 Billion

Nearly half the people in the world use polluting, inefficient stoves to cook their food each day.

Photo Credit: SNV

Photo Credit: Nigel Bruce

Harmful cookstove smoke kills nearly two million people a year and sickens millions more.

THE TIME IS RIGHT

While hundreds of global and country-specific programs promote the deployment and use of cleaner and more efficient cookstoves, the field has yet to reach a truly global scale.

Yet, recent developments in the stove field are providing greater confidence that we can achieve large-scale success. Because of advances in design, testing, and monitoring; compelling new research on the health benefits of reduced exposure to cookstove smoke; new national cookstove programs in India, China, Mexico, and elsewhere; the mounting need for effective near– and long-term action to address climate change; growth of promising new commercial business models; and the potential of carbon finance to fund stove projects, it may now be possible to reach hundreds of millions of the world's poor with cleaner and more efficient stoves.

However, to achieve this ambitious goal, the global community must act now, focusing its efforts on the creation of a thriving and sustainable clean cookstove industry.

ALLIANCE FOUNDING PARTNERS (IN ORDER THEY JOINED):

• United Nations Foundation • Shell Foundation • U.S. Environmental Protection Agency • U.S. Department of State • World Health Organization (WHO) • German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) • Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) • Morgan Stanley • UN-Energy • World Food Programme • UN Environment Programme (UNEP) • UN Industrial Development Organization • U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) • U.S. Department of Energy • U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (National Institutes of Health, and Centers for Disease Control & Prevention) • UN High Commissioner for Refugees • SNV: Netherlands Development Organisation • Shell • Government of Peru • Government of Norway

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PARTNERING WITH THE ALLIANCE

The Alliance invites public and private partners to join us. Together we can create a thriving global market for clean and efficient cooking solutions by:

- raising global awareness of the health and environmental benefits of clean cookstoves and fuels;
- funding health, climate, and other applied research to enhance our understanding of the challenges and solutions in the sector;
- advancing the use of innovative finance mechanisms for clean stoves at scale;
- supporting capacity building for stove production and marketing, including working with women's collectives and NGOs;
- addressing import tariffs and trade barriers; and
- mobilizing effective sales, distribution, and supply chains, and engaging women as key allies in the cookstoves business chain.

The world has approached a critical "tipping point" in moving cleaner stove design and deployment to scale.