

Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves Submission to the UNFCCC on the Lima Work Programme on Gender

The Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves is a public-private partnership hosted by the United Nations Foundation that seeks to save lives, improve livelihoods, empower women, and protect the environment by creating a thriving global market for clean and efficient household cooking solutions. The Alliance's 100 by '20 goal calls for 100 million households to adopt cleaner and more efficient cookstoves and fuels by 2020. The Alliance is working with its public, private and non-profit partners to accelerate the production, deployment, and use of clean cookstoves and fuels in developing countries.

Scope/Outcomes

- It is essential that the scope of work prioritize energy access and the role of women in expanding access. Close to half of the world's population lives in energy poverty, severely impacting their way of life and opportunities, while also hampering economic growth, environmental sustainability, public health, and gender equality. Alternatively, improved access to clean, sustainable energy drives positive impacts in all of these areas.
- It is particularly important to focus on household energy for cooking, heating, and lighting. Women are disproportionately affected by the lack of access and can also drive greater adoption of safe and sustainable technologies and fuels, such as clean cookstoves and solar lanterns.
- Discussions around energy often overlook household energy, which has the most significant impact on the lives of women. Household energy also has significant implications for emissions of black carbon and other greenhouse gasses and deforestation, as well as other climate and environmental issues.
- The workshop should focus on approaches and models that have the potential to be scaled up. Just highlighting best practices is not enough, the conversation must focus on how we can scale up these best practices. A major part of this discussion should cover the financing instruments that would be necessary to scale effective models.

Experiences in Practice/Policy

- What challenges have you faced in implementing gender-responsive approaches?
 - Women often cannot access affordable financing
 - Women face discriminatory cultural and gender norms that can limit opportunities to grow their businesses or their role within a business
 - Women lack access to formal education and business training
 - Women lack access to a variety of market actors and intermediaries, as well as valuable market data
 - Women can lack mobility
 - Women's labor is undervalued and undercompensated
 - Women lack control over assets and resources
 - Women have little free time because of their triple role in society (reproductive, productive, and community responsibilities)
 - Women have low representation in policy and decision-making
 - A lack of understanding of what gender-responsive approaches are and what their contribution can be.
- What tools, resources, or training would be most valuable to better support and facilitate progress on these actions and policies?
 - Conduct gender analysis to understand community gender roles and dynamics

- Develop of strategy to engage men in conjunction with relevant stakeholders and ensure that the strategy includes actionable interventions
- Conduct gender-sensitive trainings and offer continuous training opportunities and mentorship to women
- Conduct agency-based [empowerment and leadership training](#) to enhance women's capacity to create and focus in on goals, and develop the leadership skills needed to realize those goals
- The Alliance's [Resource Guide](#) for Scaling Adoption of Clean Cooking Solutions through Women's Empowerment provides tools for integrating gender and women's empowerment at every segment of the value chain in clean cooking projects and businesses
- Conduct gender due diligence to assess an enterprise's potential impact on women's empowerment and the level of integration of gender issues into its overall business model
- Conduct gender-sensitive value chain analysis to understand the roles that both women and men play along the value chain, potential for improving the position of women, and the benefits of engaging women for businesses
- Create a gender action plan based on gender analysis, with clear gender objectives, proposed actions, and indicators for measuring success
- Develop a monitoring & evaluation framework to evaluate the effectiveness of gender-responsive approaches, building from the Alliance's [social impact M&E system](#)
- Consult resources on best practices, such as the Alliance's [applied research study in Uganda](#) that outlines sales, marketing, and financing strategies for targeting women consumers
- Implement gender-informed human resources and operations through [training and guidance](#) on building gender into company policies and procedures
- Institutionally, what type of guidelines, support, or institutional coordination (i.e. NAPs, NAPAs, Nairobi Work Programme, Article 6 etc.) would facilitate implementation of these actions and policies?
 - Social Impact Steering Committee: Chaired by the Alliance and ICRW, this is a group of experts that oversee and provide guidance on measuring the socio-economic impacts of clean cooking solutions (eg. Livelihoods and empowerment).
 - A Working Group on Scaling up Energy Access through Women's Economic Empowerment would enhance attention and funding for women's economic empowerment activities within the energy sector globally by bringing together national policy makers, governments, practitioners and implementers of organizations working to enhance women's economic empowerment and gender-responsive approaches.
 - Most critically, these priorities and actions needs to be integrated into broader climate, environmental protection, sustainable development, health, and gender quality initiatives. For example, household energy must be integrated into implementation plans for the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) and plans to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Institutional coordination should be focused on ensuring that lessons learned are communicated and applied and that effective models are scaled up. Improving and enhancing financing available both for these coordination efforts as well as household energy interventions themselves is also a critical need.
- What in your view is the role of a gender-responsive finance / budget in ensuring these actions and policies?

- Gender responsive financing has a critical role to play in ensuring that both climate and gender equality objectives move forward. In particular, financing must empower local change agents such as entrepreneurs, policymakers, and program delivery staff. The Alliance has found its Women’s Empowerment Fund to be very successful in catalyzing gender-responsive approaches, especially since the grant is coupled with capacity building. Targeted funding is necessary for organizations to initiate innovative approaches to scaling women’s empowerment because it reduces the risk associated with the initial cost of designing a gender-informed intervention, which can lead to results that make the business case for gender to be scaled and mainstreamed through a business model.
- Gender responsive financing is critical for supporting actors to conduct gender due diligence, analysis, training, and monitoring and evaluation to help bridge the gender gap that leaves women disadvantaged in terms of access to resources, networks, financing, formal education and training, and income.
- Gender responsive financing is also needed to support women-owned and run SMEs because women are not equally represented within management and decision-making ranks. Many SMEs lack sufficient human resource policies to recruit and retain women at all levels of their organization, but particularly in management roles. Women CEOs compared to men are particularly disadvantaged because they lack equal access to resources and opportunities. Women entrepreneurs are often excluded from social networks or do not have access to affordable financing to grow their businesses. Women CEOs could particularly benefit from targeted financing that provides effective and ongoing mentorship; networking opportunities; legal expertise; understanding governing structures that are required by investors and lenders; proposal and business plan writing; structuring profitable margins for each actor in their value chain; training employees and incentivizing them properly; IT and technology; and balancing heavy workloads at both home and office.

Views on Training for Delegates

- It is important to not only have national and regional trainings about issues on their own, but on the interconnections between issues and how to apply the understanding of these connections in program design and implementation. The Alliance has hosted in-person trainings and webinars on the [Resource Guide](#) for Scaling Adoption of Clean Cooking Solutions through Women’s Empowerment, which has proven to be effective in reaching a wide variety of partners and could easily be adapted for national delegates at the local or international level.
- Trainings that provide an understanding that can be applied in different circumstances are especially useful. A training on how to design grant and investment mechanisms that really transform women’s lives and their ability to participate, for example, is applicable to a number of issues, including agriculture and energy access.
- The aim should be to have the lessons from the training improve the delegate’s broader scope of work. They should be able to better understand when issues like gender and human rights issues are missing and have ideas of how to better incorporate them into policy directives and multilateral decision making.