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Priority 1 – Outcome 3

Closing the Clean Cooking Gap

A Voluntary Infrastructure Investment
Action Plan to Accelerate the Deployment
of Clean Cooking Solutions

G20 South Africa 2025 - ETWG 4 Report



“Clean cooking is not just an energy issue but a human rights issue. The G20 issued a historic agreement, ‘Closing the Clean Cooking Gap’, which I see as the key legacy of South Africa’s G20 Energy Transitions Working Group. This outcome builds on our Presidency document, ‘Clean Cooking Infrastructure Investment Action Plan’, developed by the International Energy Agency and South Africa’s Energy & Water Sector Education Training Authority. The report outlines the most important concrete actions that all partners can take to advance clean cooking, drawing on input from industry experts, intergovernmental organisations, and other countries.

The legacy of South Africa’s Presidency is to elevate clean cooking onto the mainstream agenda of the G20 — the most industrialised and powerful countries in the world — and to turn words into action. We will also be exploring ways to advance this as a pan-African agenda, driving priority actions through the African Union.”

– Dr Kgosientsho Ramokgopa
Minister of Electricity and Energy, Republic of South Africa

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Introduction

As part of its G20 Presidency in 2025, South Africa is prioritising energy security, affordable and reliable energy access, and, critically, the urgent need to close the clean cooking gap in sub-Saharan Africa. As such, South Africa’s G20 Energy Transition Working Group has developed a Clean Cooking Voluntary Infrastructure Investment Action Plan for sub-Saharan Africa (hereafter referred to as “Action Plan”), which outlines practical actions for governments, industry, financiers, and civil society to take to advance clean cooking solutions across the continent.

The Action Plan identifies key interventions required to meet growing demand for clean cooking fuels and equipment, spanning all major clean cooking technologies. Building on the [Roadmap for the Brazil G20 Presidency’s Clean Cooking Strategy](#), it outlines clear and actionable steps to scale up investment and delivery between 2025 and 2030, supporting sub-Saharan African countries to secure universal clean cooking access.

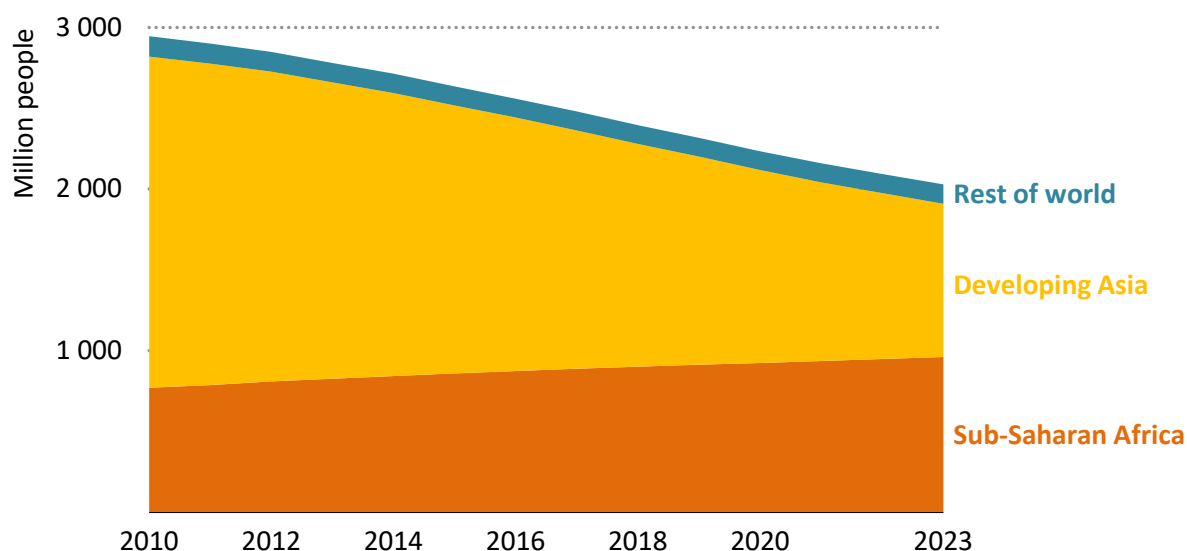
Electricity and Energy Minister Dr Kgosientsho Ramokgopa stressed that clean cooking is not just an energy issue but a “human rights issue,” where the Minister emphasised that “the major victory is... clean cooking. It’s huge for the continent”. The Minister noted that “the legacy of South Africa’s Presidency is to lift clean cooking into the mainstream agenda of the G20 – the most industrialised powerful countries in the world.” This commitment is reflected in this Action Plan, serving as the basis for the negotiated outcome under South Africa’s G20 Energy Transition Working Group (Priority 1, Outcome 3 – Closing the Clean Cooking Gap), which introduced “A Voluntary Infrastructure Action Plan to Accelerate the Deployment of Clean Cooking Solutions”.

These efforts reinforce the broader African Union agenda on clean cooking, ensuring that Africa’s priorities on access, equity, and sustainable energy remain central to the global transition. They align with ongoing initiatives such as the Ten-Year Infrastructure Investment Plan, part of the African Union’s Agenda 2063, which aims to boost energy access across the continent.

Context

The world has made immense progress in improving access to clean cooking, but momentum has been slower in sub-Saharan Africa. Today, 2 billion people worldwide – a quarter of the global population – still cook over open fires or on basic stoves. They spend hours collecting firewood or animal waste, which are used as fuel for cooking and emit harmful fumes. Since 2010, nearly 1.5 billion people in Asia and Latin America gained access to modern cooking stoves and fuels, cutting the number of people without access to clean cooking in half in just 15 years. These successes are due in large part to government initiatives to improve clean cooking access. Around 75% of those who gained access to clean cooking did so via liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), 17% from electricity, and 5% from other clean cooking solutions. In sub-Saharan Africa, however, the number of people without access has grown, reaching around 1 billion today and affecting roughly four in every five households.

Figure 1 – Global population without access to clean cooking by region, 2010-2023



Source: IEA (2025) Universal Access to Clean Cooking in Africa

Access to clean cooking is defined as reliable access to equipment and fuels that allow cooking to be carried out in accordance with the World Health Organization's (WHO)

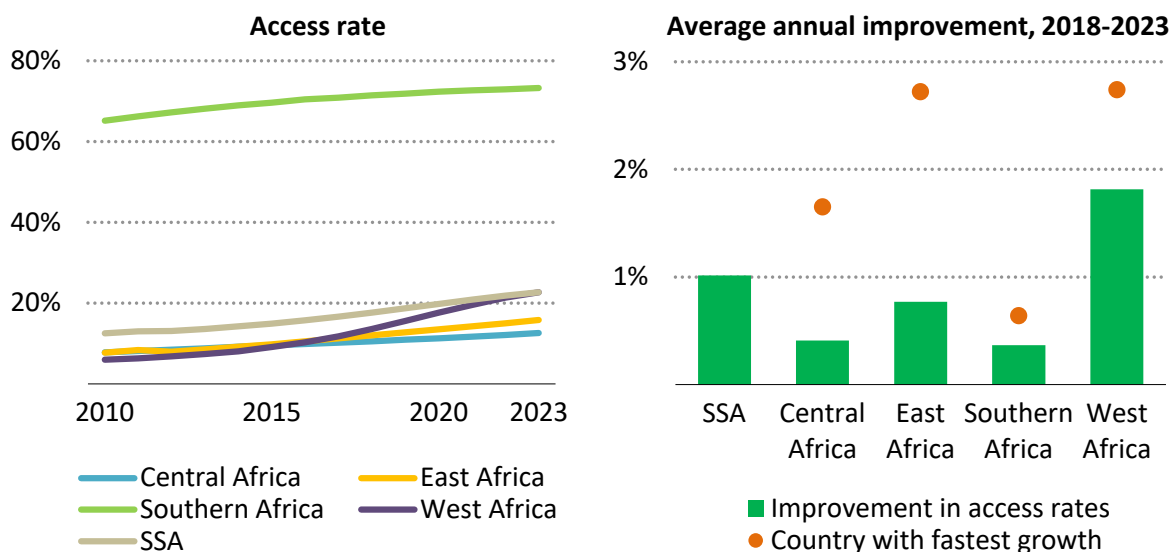
criteria for Tier 4 and above for indoor air pollutants. This excludes traditional cooking methods that use solid biomass (such as a three-stone fire), coal, or kerosene. It includes clean advanced biomass cook stoves, biogas/biodigester systems, electric stoves, ethanol, LPG, and natural gas stoves.

The lack of access to clean cooking has wide-ranging negative impacts – on health, economic development, education, and the environment. It contributes to 815 000 premature deaths annually in Africa alone, linked to the grave health effects of household air pollution. Across the continent, women and girls spend an average of four hours a day gathering fuel and cooking, often foregoing education or remunerated work as a result. The lack of clean cooking access is also linked to the loss of 1.3 million hectares of forest each year, diminishing a key resource for the continent. The combined impact of these factors, along with direct emissions from a lack of clean cooking access, is equivalent to a quarter of sub-Saharan Africa's energy-related CO2 emissions today.

Although sub-Saharan Africa is lagging in access to clean cooking, significant progress has been made in the region in recent years. Since 2020, around 13 million people gained access to clean cooking annually, 20% more than the average in the past decade. This progress, however, remains highly concentrated, with just five countries – Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Lesotho, Nigeria, and the Republic of the Congo – accounting for two-thirds of all new access between 2018 and 2023. The main reason behind this improvement is better policies to support clean cooking, along with active clean cooking programmes that provide some form of financial support for clean cooking adoption.

On a regional basis, West Africa has seen the fastest rate of progress in the last five years, followed by East Africa. The rise in clean cooking access in 2023 was driven largely by urban populations, which accounted for over two-thirds of all new connections. This reflects a rise in urban populations (largely due to migration), as well as the expansion of services in cities. Today, clean cooking access in urban centres in sub-Saharan Africa stands at 41%, compared to just 9% in rural areas.

Figure 2 - Clean cooking access rates and annual improvements in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) by region

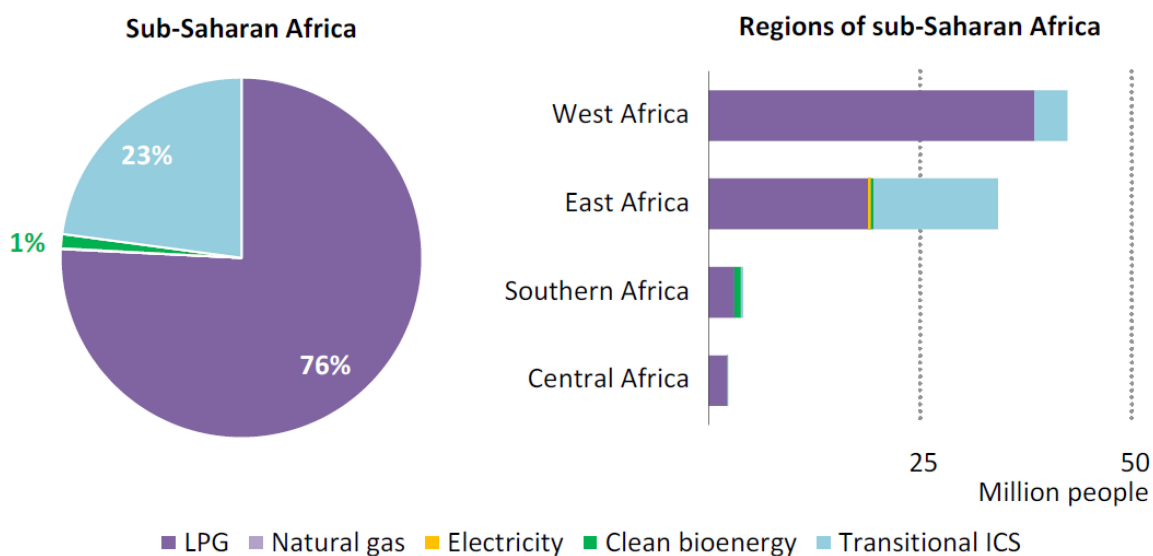


Source: IEA (2025) Universal Access to Clean Cooking in Africa

This progress is a result of a shift in political will and action across sub-Saharan Africa, with many countries updating and actively enforcing clean cooking policies. Almost three-quarters of the sub-Saharan African population without previous access to clean cooking has experienced positive policy developments – with at least 40 new policies in place since 2024 – signalling a growing commitment by governments.

LPG played the leading role in extending new access across sub-Saharan Africa over the past five years. Of the nearly 80 million people who gained access to transitional and clean cooking solutions since 2018, three-quarters did so through LPG. The largest access gains through LPG in terms of the number of people were in Kenya, Nigeria, and Sudan. Transitional improved biomass cookstoves – those that meet Tier 3 standards for particulate matter and carbon monoxide emissions – provided roughly 20 million Africans with cleaner cooking options in the last five years. Other clean solutions, such as bioethanol, electricity, and biogas, provided less than 1% of new access to clean cooking in the last five years, though some specific regions saw higher growth, for example in parts of Kenya where bioethanol cooking accounted for more than 1%.

Figure 3 - Share of people who gained access to clean and transitional cooking solutions and number of people per region, 2019-2023



Source: IEA (2025) Universal Access to Clean Cooking in Africa

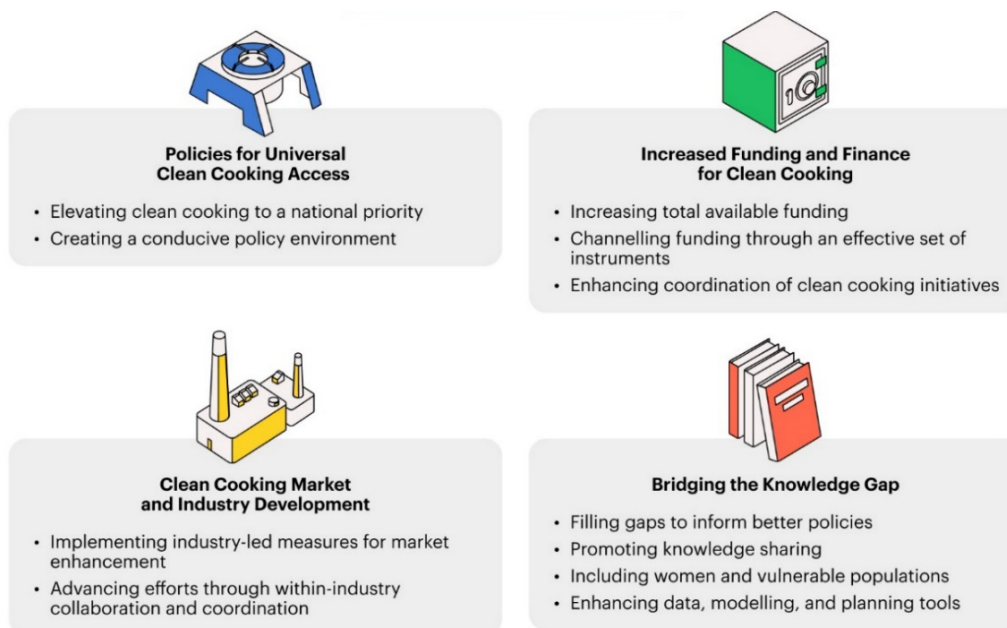
Note: LPG = liquefied petroleum gas; ICS = improved biomass cookstoves

Access to clean cooking remains among the most urgent and often overlooked issues in global energy systems. Solutions to this challenge are available, affordable and can change lives, but addressing the issue requires broad and sustained support. The current progress builds on the foundation laid by Brazil’s G20 Clean Cooking Roadmap, the Summit on Clean Cooking in Africa, the African Energy Summit, the Dar es Salaam Declaration (Mission 300), and other concrete measures advancing clean cooking efforts across sub-Saharan Africa.

How to Use This Document

This document is a non-binding framework designed to identify key measures that can be adopted by governments, international partners, industry, and civil society to improve clean cooking access across sub-Saharan Africa. While far from exhaustive, this document includes recommendations broadly endorsed by experts to help advance clean cooking access. Recommended actions have been organised across four thematic pillars, with the aim of informing national strategies, mobilising greater and better coordinated financing, and aligning public, private, and international efforts. Each section outlines actionable recommendations that can be taken by key stakeholder groups, namely policymakers, investors, industry actors, and knowledge partners. These are not meant to be prescriptive; if an action is specified for one stakeholder group, it does not preclude others from considering, supporting or taking similar initiatives. Ideally, this document provides a common repository for meaningful actions that various parties can commit to and inform a positive G20 outcome on clean cooking.

Figure 4 – The four pillars of the Voluntary Clean Cooking Infrastructure Investment Action Plan



Source: IEA (2025) Universal Access to Clean Cooking in Africa

Based on those commitments, there will be ongoing tracking of the implementation of these actions to 2030 with the IEA monitoring some of them. The list of priority actions may evolve and should be tailored to their specific contexts, aligned with institutional capacities, and driven by national priorities, while collectively advancing progress toward universal access to clean cooking.

Pillar 1: Policies for Universal Clean Cooking

Access

The following actions are recommended for **policymakers** and **governments** to accelerate universal access to clean cooking. They are intended to guide the development and implementation of effective policies, regulatory frameworks, and public investment strategies to remove market barriers, enable private sector participation, and ensure that clean cooking solutions are affordable, accessible, and sustainable for all. The recommendations aim to create an enabling environment that aligns national energy, health, climate, and development goals with the urgent need to expand clean cooking access at scale.

1.1. Elevating clean cooking to a national priority

- 1.1.1. Develop and adopt a national clean cooking strategy and action plan (e.g. a costed implementation roadmap) that defines clear targets and timelines for clean cooking solutions that are tailored to the needs of different consumer segments and geographic areas. This will provide a coordinated framework to accelerate implementation and track progress across technologies and regions.
- 1.1.2. Achieve policy parity for all clean cooking solutions by ensuring government programmes work to guarantee each solution has equal access to fiscal incentives, subsidies, and regulatory provisions.
- 1.1.3. Map existing clean cooking infrastructure at a national level and create a central data repository that is publicly accessible to all stakeholders.

1.1.4. Identify and map country- and regional-level infrastructure needs and include these projects in discussions with international partners on financing and other support for clean cooking access. This should include discussions on:

- Supply from production and imports (e.g. refineries, ethanol production plants, pellet production plants, and ports). These discussions should include development partners who may be able to provide concessional financing.
- Distribution (e.g. depots, storage facilities, bottling, pellet bagging plants, and transport routes, including rail).
- Retail networks (e.g. retail outlets, cylinder exchange points, and cylinder refilling sites).

1.1.5. Identify other national government entities that are relevant to clean cooking (e.g. within the health, environment, agriculture, education, or utilities sectors). A list of concrete measures should be developed that ministries, agencies, and other supporting entities could take to integrate clean cooking into their efforts and identify potential funding mechanisms that can be built upon to provide clean cooking support. This could include the following: integrating clean cooking into agricultural waste management programmes to utilise waste for biogas and pellets; school feeding programmes; programmes supporting displaced people; utility efficiency programmes and appliance financing schemes; electricity access initiatives; and alignment with nature conservation and restoration programmes.

1.1.6. Work with finance ministries to integrate clean cooking into broader efforts, such as digital banking and social security identification programmes, to ensure affordability for consumers by linking it to the utilisation of clean cooking fuels (such as PAHAL in India, for example).

- 1.1.7. Integrate clean cooking methods in all public buildings with cooking facilities, including schools, hospitals, and public housing. This can be enforced through the inclusion of clean cooking requirements in national building codes and by procuring new equipment and fuels for public facilities.
- 1.1.8. Include clean cooking investments and programmes in national government budget allocations and requests to multilateral development banks (MDBs) and development finance institutions (DFIs).
- 1.1.9. Study the role and need for strategic energy reserves, including specifics on local or distributed storage, enhanced regional coordination on stockpiling and releases, and developing 30-day reserves for key clean cooking fuels.
- 1.1.10. Establish regular dialogue with the private sector and industry associations to understand key changes in the sector and challenges, and engage these organisations on the most useful policy, regulatory, and tax support, including ways to expand into underserved areas, develop local manufacturing facilities, and strengthen value chains.
- 1.1.11. Mainstream clean cooking into national and regional plans by ensuring its inclusion in country investment plans, Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and the Mission 300 Compact, thereby unlocking high-level commitment, policy alignment, and access to international climate finance.

1.2. Creating a conducive policy environment

- 1.2.1. Establish a dedicated multisectoral national clean cooking committee within an existing body responsible for clean cooking, energy, or infrastructure that acts as a clean cooking champion and has the mandate to co-ordinate activities and promote clean cooking across ministries. This includes responsibilities such as tendering and approval of new clean

cooking infrastructure projects, managing stakeholder and industry engagement, coordinating data collection, and reporting.

- 1.2.2. Reduce taxes and tariffs on clean cooking stoves, equipment, and fuels, while working with international partners to offset the fiscal impacts by reducing other support mechanisms.
- 1.2.3. Develop a national policy for electric cooking tariffs with the support of utilities to address affordability challenges across income groups while ensuring financial sustainability. sufficiency.
- 1.2.4. Implement clear pricing regulations for clean cooking fuels, with transparent terms and formulas linked to global prices, where relevant, to promote market certainty.
- 1.2.5. Develop and implement carbon credit legislation and establish a registry that enables countries to participate in carbon trading under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.
- 1.2.6. Adopt and enforce national performance and safety standards for cookstoves, associated equipment, and fuels based on international benchmarks. Require visible labelling to inform consumers when choosing and reducing the prevalence of substandard products. Promote these standards through the African Continental Free Trade Area to facilitate the cross-border trade of clean cooking equipment and appliances.
- 1.2.7. Develop standardised product information that clearly shows the cost per meal for different cooking fuels and establish a national or regional price index for key clean cooking fuels to improve transparency, inform policy, and guide consumer choices.
- 1.2.8. Develop simplified procedures for permitting, licensing, and land acquisition for clean cooking infrastructure with clearly defined maximum processing timelines (e.g. 90 days from submission).

- 1.2.9. Work with local authorities to identify locations for setting up clean cooking distribution depots, including the possibility of co-hosting at government sites. Prepare the needed safety infrastructure, certifications, and zoning to allow retailers, particularly smaller players in underserved communities, to host clean cooking distribution or storages sites.
- 1.2.10. Consider providing concessions (such as regulated clean cooking utilities) to clean cooking providers for specific districts for a fixed term at regulated rates to de-risk the entry of market players in rural areas or underserved communities.
- 1.2.11. Produce and publish clean cooking tracking statistics at least once per year, and require reporting requirements on suppliers, importers, and other clean cooking companies, linking operational licenses to mandatory data reporting obligations. Incorporate clean cooking questions in all household and enterprise surveys.

Pillar 2: Increased Funding and Finance for Clean Cooking

The following actions are recommended for all **financing partners**, including donor governments, DFIs, MDBs, commercial banks, and international financial institutions, as part of a collective effort to scale up funding for and investment in clean cooking. These recommendations aim to catalyse new financial commitments, de-risk private sector engagement, and align public and concessional finance with market-based solutions. By supporting the development of clean cooking infrastructure, technologies, and supply chains, these actions can help bridge the investment gap and ensure that clean cooking becomes a viable, inclusive, and sustainable sector.

2.1. Increasing total available funding

- 2.1.1. Establish target for G20 countries to mobilise USD 1 billion annually in concessional funding to support clean cooking access in sub-Saharan Africa.
- 2.1.2. Mobilise private sector financial commitments for clean cooking in sub-Saharan Africa, whether through direct investments, carbon credit purchases, philanthropy, capitalising specialised investment funds, or in-kind support, such as providing clean cooking fuels with generous financing terms.
- 2.1.3. Engage domestic sources of financing, such as national banks, pension funds, or microfinance institutions, by providing technical support, business tools and de-risking mechanisms to increase lending to clean cooking companies and consumers (e.g. by helping understand project finances and carbon credits, or by providing guarantees or credit lines).
- 2.1.4. Enter into long-term carbon credit offtake agreements for donor governments and International Civil Aviation Organization parties within G20 jurisdictions for Article 6 carbon credit purchases and sales, and include high-quality clean cooking carbon credits on the purchase whitelist. Where relevant, provide regulatory guidance on voluntary carbon credit purchases of high-quality credits by companies looking to make claims.

2.2. Channelling funding through an effective set of instruments

- 2.2.1. Support the establishment of a clean cooking infrastructure investment fund and risk-sharing instruments within existing DFIs.
- 2.2.2. Identify existing facilities and their type of funds that can invest in clean cooking companies and projects and explore ways to engage in the sector,

including through guarantees or mass procurement of clean cooking equipment that reaches minimum ticket sizes.

- 2.2.3. Maintain a public database of funding vehicles from DFIs available to clean cooking enterprises.
- 2.2.4. Prioritise technology-neutral funding mechanisms to deliver support in line with the requests and needs of sub-Saharan African countries.
- 2.2.5. Set portfolio requirements for clean cooking within energy, climate, and access development finance allocations, ideally with explicit targets for clean cooking in sub-Saharan Africa.
- 2.2.6. Develop and adopt guidelines on clean cooking financing principles by standardising eligibility criteria, disbursement procedures and verification protocols to steer donor grants, concessional and philanthropic support, and leverage carbon revenues.
- 2.2.7. Increase technical assistance specialised in supporting small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to access larger funding pools.
- 2.2.8. Support local development agencies to identify a pipeline of clean cooking projects and enterprises, helping them reach investability by supporting project preparation facilities to identify, structure, and de-risk scalable opportunities.
- 2.2.9. Sponsor seconded experts within the government to provide capacity building and training to government officials on clean cooking energy planning, including on how to use software tools, to enhance infrastructure planning, decision-making and ownership.
- 2.2.10. Provide funding to support clean cooking market development initiatives, customer awareness campaigns, and demand stimulation programmes.

2.2.11. Provide funding for public buildings with cooking facilities to procure clean cooking equipment and install needed connections that are safe and up to code. Governments should provide sufficient and ongoing budgetary support to sustain the use of clean cooking methods in public buildings.

2.3. Enhancing coordination of clean cooking initiatives

2.3.1. Define the requirements for DFIs to disclose clean cooking finance structures and improve the general understanding of required financing terms and expectations.

2.3.2. Develop a fund accessible to smaller philanthropies, companies, and other contributors designed to channel resources toward diverse projects across the continent, including pilot schemes, that align with donor interest and criteria.

2.3.3. Enhance reporting of clean cooking activities carried out by donor countries to allow timely visibility of ongoing programmes and support.

Pillar 3: Clean Cooking Market and Industry Development

The following actions are recommended to support the clean cooking market and industry development, targeting **private sector actors, industry associations**, and all **enterprise stakeholders** engaged in the clean cooking value chain. These recommendations aim to strengthen demand and supply dynamics, improve product standards and distribution models, and foster innovation and competition within the sector. By creating a more robust and investable market environment, these actions can help scale up the availability, affordability, and adoption of clean cooking solutions, contributing to both commercial viability and long-term sustainability.

3.1. Implementing industry-led measures for market enhancement

- 3.1.1. Provide targeted worker training for actors across the clean cooking value chain by launching a skills and entrepreneurship development programme, including vocational training and incubation initiatives focused on youth and women. This should offer certification in appliance installation, maintenance, fuel retailing, and small business management.
- 3.1.2. Carry out feasibility assessments on the potential for developing regional clean cooking infrastructure clusters (e.g. ports, stove manufacturing facilities, fuel filling facilities, or pellet production facilities) and a broader ecosystem, with a particular focus on identifying sites with existing infrastructure, pre-clearances, and their permitting processes to accelerate implementation. Where helpful to secure buy-in, work to define a multinational stakeholder structure that works for all recipient governments (e.g. shared employment opportunities).
- 3.1.3. Pool funds to establish regional certification bodies that can help ensure imports and locally manufactured equipment and fuels meet standards and can help with ongoing inspections and recertification.
- 3.1.4. Align industry stance on best practices for safety, including adopting industry-wide positions, for example on promoting branded cylinder recirculation models, implementing a fuel-grade bioethanol standard, applying quality standards for biomass pellets, regulating flexible refilling, or providing free provision or replacement of defective stoves and damaged cylinders submitted for inspection.
- 3.1.5. Establish and support affordable clean cooking laboratories to develop and promote industry-wide protocols for the testing of stoves and fuels. Support the development and adoption of new International Organization

for Standardization categorization to certify emissions from lower-tier cooking technologies.

- 3.1.6. Develop scalable pilot projects with governments and international partners to enhance the understanding of viable business models in different contexts.
- 3.1.7. Create, sponsor, and support local industry groups who can play a role in data collection, provide inputs to government stakeholders, convene local actors, and enhance the visibility of potential partner SMEs for the distribution of clean cooking equipment and knowledge.
- 3.1.8. Integrate novel technologies and business models that address affordability challenges, such as the Pay-As-You-Cook scheme, community kitchens, regulated flexible refilling, and consumer savings funds.

3.2. Advancing efforts through within-industry collaboration and coordination

- 3.2.1. Establish industry-led standards and regulatory bodies that recommend consistent policy across regions that mutually benefits all sectors of the clean cooking industry. Establish periodic engagement forums for industry to engage with policymakers and regulators.
- 3.2.2. Support and convene companies, researchers, and innovators to improve clean cooking product design (e.g. consumer testing, enhancing power quality management of cooking devices, and improving customer experience).
- 3.2.3. Identify concrete measures that utilities or off-grid electricity providers can use to integrate clean cooking into broader electricity access rollout strategies, such as bundling stoves with new household connections,

offering appliance financing, implementing time-of-use tariffs, or incorporating e-cooking into demand-side management strategies.

- 3.2.4. Identify data collection and sharing practices that benefit the entire clean cooking industry and develop standard reporting frameworks for indicators, such as clean cooking consumption, employment, and infrastructure, to support government monitoring and progress tracking.
- 3.2.5. Support the development and adoption of harmonised technical and safety standards for equipment, installations and fuels, and periodically revisit standards specific to sub-Saharan Africa.
- 3.2.6. Lend diplomatic support to companies seeking to develop local distribution and manufacturing supply chains.
- 3.2.7. Provide financial support to export and import sectors to facilitate trade and investment in clean cooking technologies and supply chains.

Pillar 4: Bridging the Knowledge Gap

The following actions are recommended to bridge the knowledge gap in the clean cooking sector, targeting implementing organisations, non-governmental organisations, academia, civil society, governments, and research institutions. These recommendations aim to improve the availability, quality, and use of data and evidence to inform policy, investment, and programme design. Strengthening research, sharing knowledge, and building capacity can help bridge information gaps, promote best practices, and support more effective decision-making. By fostering collaboration across sectors, these actions contribute to a more informed, transparent, and accountable clean cooking ecosystem.

4.1. Filling gaps to inform better policies

- 4.1.1. Support the establishment of dedicated clean cooking specialists within governments to co-ordinate and deliver capacity and integrate clean cooking within NDCs.
- 4.1.2. Provide guidance and capacity building to support countries to integrate clean cooking into their NDCs, including how this impacts eligibility for compliance and voluntary carbon credits.
- 4.1.3. Develop templates for regulatory and technical standards based on international best practices and conduct a stocktake of existing national standards and regulations to identify gaps and harmonise efforts.
- 4.1.4. Advance standard assessments of fiscal burdens of various clean cooking pricing regimes against affordability considerations.

4.2. Promoting knowledge sharing

- 4.2.1. Create and enhance clean cooking capacity within regional bodies (e.g. AFREC/AU, SADC, ECOWAS, ECREEE) to advance regional tracking, data sharing, and standards setting.
- 4.2.2. Establish sectoral exchanges where international organisations and government agencies regularly discuss ongoing or upcoming projects. These platforms, potentially hosted within the context of the AU, can enhance coordination of clean cooking initiatives, prevent duplication of efforts, align target groups and priorities, and facilitate the sharing of best practices in advocacy and communication.
- 4.2.3. Provide capacity building and training to government officials on clean cooking energy planning, including the usage of software tools to enhance infrastructure planning, decision-making and ownership.

- 4.2.4. Design curricula for different components of clean cooking training and capacity building, which can be adopted and rolled out in universities and training centres.
- 4.2.5. Establish national and/or regional clean cooking research and knowledge hubs within universities, think-tanks, and regional institutions to lead applied research on consumer behaviour, stove adoption dynamics, gender impacts, and market trends to inform evidence-based local policies and exchange best practices on clean cooking data, modelling and planning.
- 4.2.6. Implement co-ordinated communication campaigns aimed at raising awareness and changing behaviours. These campaigns should be led by relevant public agencies in collaboration with industry to build consumer trust and promote safety, address cultural preferences, and encourage fuel switching.

4.3. Including women and vulnerable populations

- 4.3.1. Develop a list of policy interventions to support women, such as ensuring clean cooking incentives go directly to women, or allowing women to access financing for clean cooking initiatives and enterprises.
- 4.3.2. Work with humanitarian organisations to include clean cooking support in programmes for displaced people and informal settlements.
- 4.3.3. Provide training for charcoal traders, vendors, distributors, and producers aimed at supporting their transition to cleaner cooking fuels while creating new business opportunities within the charcoal value chain, such as the production of chips or pellets from purpose-grown biomass or agricultural residues.
- 4.3.4. Support market entry for women- and youth-led clean cooking enterprises through incubation, preferential procurement mechanisms, and

dedicated portfolio allocations. Set clear targets for the share of supported enterprises led by women and youth to ensure inclusive market development.

4.4. Enhancing data, modelling, and planning tools

- 4.4.1. Develop a harmonised systems for data collection, tracking, and reporting for clean cooking by integrating household survey data with supply-side monitoring, industry reporting and carbon credit verification. Establish mandatory national reporting requirements for providers and align indicators across MDBs and DFIs. Work with international partners to standardise definitions on adoption, affordability, emissions, and health impacts.
- 4.4.2. Quantify the sources and regional distribution of solid biomass that can be produced sustainably and provide raw material for upgraded fuels, such as pellets or chips. These should include agricultural residues, processing residues (e.g. sawdust, bagasse, or nutshells), purpose-grown crops, or low-quality wood or residues from sustainably managed forests.
- 4.4.3. Develop mechanisms to monitor asset performance and create a central, anonymised repository of performance data to benchmark.
- 4.4.4. Develop geospatial planning tools for targeted clean cooking interventions by integrating clean cooking fuel usage and availability, electricity access, deforestation rates, and poverty metrics into Geographic Information System platforms to identify and prioritise high-impact investment zones.

Conclusion

Achieving universal access to clean cooking requires more than commitments on paper, it demands co-ordinated and concrete action across multiple sectors, countries and regions. By identifying practical steps under each pillar outlined in the Action Plan and assigning clear responsibilities to relevant actors with relevant timelines, the groundwork is established for measurable and lasting outcomes. Progress will be tracked through to 2030, ensuring that implementation remains on course. The list of priority actions can continue to evolve, and should be tailored to national contexts, aligned with institutional capacities, and guided by domestic priorities, all while contributing to the common goal of achieving universal access to clean cooking.

