

Clean cooking

Factsheet

Around 2 billion people still lack access to clean cooking globally. The largest gaps are concentrated in Africa (1 billion people), developing economies in Asia (900 million people) and Latin America (50 million). Household air pollution causes around 2.5 million premature deaths annually, the majority attributable to traditional cooking methods. Women and children bear a disproportionate share of this burden, through greater exposure to harmful smoke, physical risk, and the time demands of fuel collection and cooking – with far-reaching consequences for health, gender equality, education and the environment.

Access to clean cooking has risen steadily on the international energy agenda in recent years. The IEA has been at the forefront of this effort for 25 years and in 2024 hosted the first-ever international Summit dedicated to clean cooking in Africa. The Summit mobilised over USD 2.2 billion in public and private commitments and was attended by over 60 countries with 1,000 delegates. Since 2024, clean cooking has been featured across most multilateral fora, including the last three COPs and in the last three G20 communiqués. To further support progress, the IEA is preparing a new Summit on Clean Cooking in Africa and is collaborating with Türkiye's COP31 Presidency on a clean cooking flagship campaign.

Universal clean cooking access can be achieved by around 2040 if progress accelerates in line with the best historical examples. The world has demonstrated that rapid progress on clean cooking is possible. Since 2010, around 1.5 billion people have gained access to clean cooking, led by major government programmes in countries such as India and Indonesia. The IEA's country-by-country analysis shows that reaching universal access would require around 130 million people to gain access each year on average. Sub-Saharan Africa would need to see the sharpest acceleration, with around 80 million people gaining access each year – about eight-times the current rate of progress.

The pathway to universal clean cooking access differs across regions. Based on historical examples, Latin America could reach near-universal access in the early 2030s, followed by developing economies in Asia, while sub-Saharan Africa would close the remaining gap closer to 2040. The challenge is increasingly concentrated in rural, low-income and remote communities, although in sub-Saharan Africa large access gaps persist in both urban and rural areas. In developing economies in Asia and Latin America, the remaining gaps are concentrated in countries that have historically seen limited progress, including Pakistan, Afghanistan and Haiti. On the pathway aligned with best historical precedents, universal clean cooking access for public institutions such as hospitals and schools is achieved by 2035. These institutions can anchor demand, creating stronger incentives to develop clean cooking fuel and appliance supply chains, including around more rural and underserved areas.

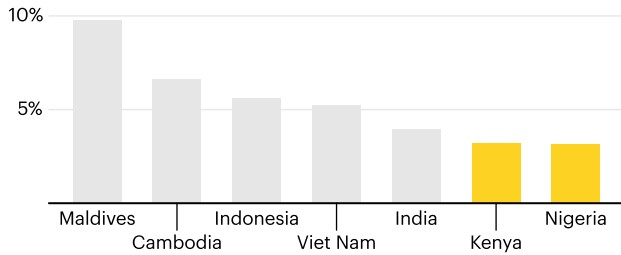
Investment requirements are modest, but the benefits are immense. Closing the clean cooking access gap requires USD 4 billion in annual investment to 2040, with roughly half directed to Africa. This represents around 0.1% global annual energy investment. In return, it would cut premature deaths from household air pollution by almost two-thirds by 2040, significantly reduce the time spent collecting fuel, and lower net greenhouse gas emissions by around 1.25 gigatonnes of CO₂-equivalent annually – comparable in scale to the combined emissions of international aviation and shipping.

Recent policy progress in sub-Saharan Africa provides a strong platform to accelerate clean cooking access. Since 2024, clean cooking has received increased political attention from governments across the region. The IEA has tracked more than 120 new policies implemented or announced since 2024, including targets, strategies, fiscal incentives and delivery programmes. New policy measures introduced in 2025 covered countries home to 84% of the region's population without access. Translating political commitments into progress on the ground remains one of the central challenges ahead.

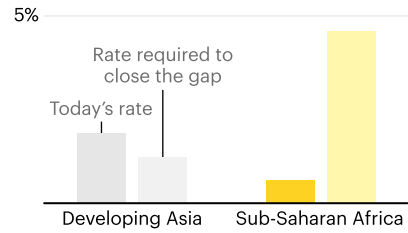
Clean cooking

The world has demonstrated that rapid progress on clean cooking is possible

Best historical annual improvement in clean cooking access rate

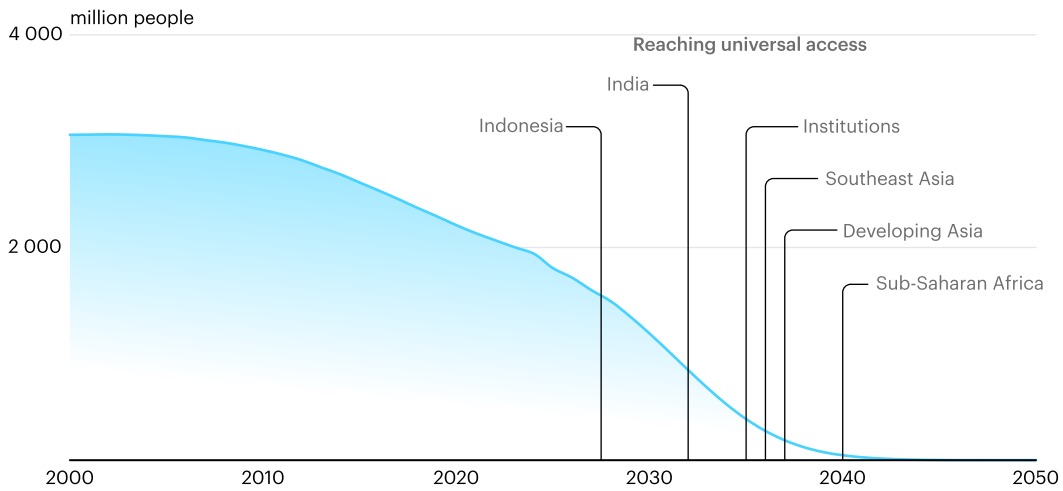


Average rate of progress required to close the gap by 2040, replicating best historical rates



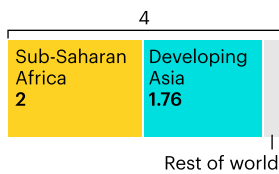
Population without access to clean cooking in the ACCESS

If progress accelerates in line with the best historical examples, universal clean cooking access can be achieved around 2040, and the institutional clean cooking gap could be closed by 2035.

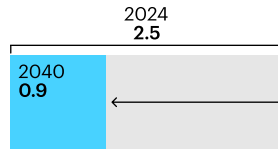


Annual investment of USD 4 bn can close the gap globally, delivering immense benefits

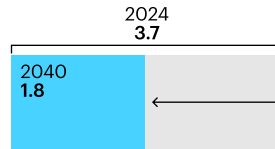
Annual investment needed USD billion



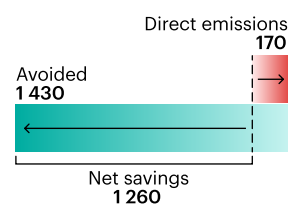
Annual premature deaths million



Daily time spent by household collecting fuel and cooking hours



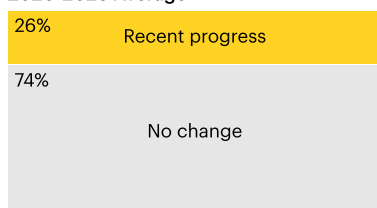
Emissions from people gaining access by 2040 Mt CO₂-eq



Recent policy progress in Sub-Saharan Africa provides a strong platform to accelerate clean cooking access

Share of population without clean cooking access living in countries with policy progress in sub-Saharan Africa per year

2020-2023 Average



2024



2025

