

FIVE YEARS THAT MADE A DIFFERENCE

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In 2010 the world community came together in order to improve the livelihoods of millions of people in developing countries by changing their way of cooking. Mainly women and children have been, and many of them still are, suffering from health problems caused by smoky, toxic fires, and poorly designed stoves used for preparing food. Based on the vision to enable 100 million households to adopt clean and efficient cookstoves and fuels by 2020, 19 partners under the leadership of the United Nations and the World Health Organization founded the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves. In 2011 IFHE joined the Alliance as “Champion Partner” and on behalf of IFHE the Programme Committee Household Technology & Sustainability (PC HT&S) is supporting the Alliance’s vision and mission.



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(Source: Christiane PAKULA)

Today the number of partners cooperating in the Alliance has risen from 19 in 2010 to 1300 UN Agencies, Research & Academic Institutions, National Governments, NGOs and Private Sector Enterprises. The Alliance has mobilised more than 400 million USD global investment in the clean cooking sector. The leadership council and the ambassadors of the Alliance have raised worldwide awareness for household air pollution and the benefits of clean and efficient stoves and fuels. The partners of the Alliance have created a thriving market that promises a sustainable development towards a clean cookstoves and fuels sector. Since 2010 the number of households using improved stoves and fuels is raising steadily. 28 million stoves were sold in 2014 and by 2016 a number of 63 million stoves is expected. The market penetration of clean cookstoves overrides the projections made in 2010 significantly.



In addition to the efforts made in creating a market, the Alliance supports cookstove and fuel testing centres in 14 countries around the world and 28 nations are engaged in the development of ISO-approved standards for cookstove performance testing. The Alliance has trained and supported 300 women entrepreneurs through the Alliance’s Women Empowerment Fund and the Alliance’s Clean Cooking Catalogue gives information on product and performance data for nearly 300 stoves. Results from more than 40 research studies supported by the Alliance on the topics livelihoods, environment, gender and health can be accessed freely. The Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves highlights 10 points of knowledge that have been derived by these studies and will drive further work:

1. Household air pollution causes 4.3 million deaths a year. In 2010 the WHO estimated a number of 1.9 million premature deaths. Today we know that cardiovascular disease from smoke inhalation has to be included in the figure.
2. Household air pollution is still the most important environmental risk factor, higher than unclean drinking water and poor sanitation.
3. Household air pollution is responsible for up to 25% of black carbon emissions globally.
4. Household air pollution is the leading cause of non-communicable diseases among women in developing countries.
5. The amount of 4.7 billion USD is needed globally to ensure universal access to clean cooking energy through 2030.
6. Women are willing to give up their traditional stoves and adopt clean cookstoves and fuels.
7. Women entrepreneurs are more successful at selling cookstoves and maintaining customers than their male counterparts.
8. New biomass stoves are approaching the efficiency emissions levels of LPG or biogas burning stoves.
9. People do not need to move up the energy ladder from solid fuels to biogas.
10. Leading humanitarian agencies recognise access to energy as having a direct impact on health, safety and livelihoods, and are now including energy products as part of their emergency distributions alongside food and shelter (Source: Global Alliance of Clean Cookstoves. Five Years of Impact 2010-2015 Report, New York, 2015).

Based on these ten points the Alliance will build on the previous successes and keep on working toward the goal that 100 million households will adopt clean and efficient cookstoves and fuels by 2020. The Alliance will remain committed to the successful market-based approach that champions the issue at the global level while building local capacity in order to ensure long-term sustainability.

A lot of work has been done and the work of the Alliance has been more than successful as the Alliance's partners overrode their midterm goals projected in 2010. The Alliance celebrates great success but, at the same time, the projects have even more ambitious goals: Besides saving the lives of 640000 people, creating 2.1 million jobs and saving 1.9 million trees it is expected to save 1.6 billion metric tons of CO₂, to reduce the fuel use of households by 61%, to save 6.2% of household income and 102 hours of collecting firewood, annually.