

Opportunities for transition to clean household energy

Application of the WHO Household Energy Assessment Rapid Tool (HEART)



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Opportunities for transition to clean household energy: application of the Household Energy Assessment Rapid Tool (HEART) in Ghana

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Abbreviations and acronyms

GDP	gross domestic product
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
GSA	Ghana Standards Authority
HEART	Household Energy Assessment Rapid Tool
HESA	Health and Environment Strategic Alliance
HAP	household air pollution
LEAP	Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty
LPG	liquefied petroleum gas
NPA	National Petroleum Authority
SNV	Netherlands Development Organisation
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

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Preface

Household air pollution (HAP) from inefficient fuel combustion is one of the most important global environmental health risks today. Almost 3 billion people, mainly in low- and middle-income countries, still rely on solid fuels (wood, animal dung, charcoal, crop wastes and coal) burnt in inefficient, highly polluting stoves for cooking and heating. Widespread use of polluting cookstoves causes almost 4 million premature deaths annually among children and adults from respiratory illness, cardiovascular diseases and cancer, as well as serious injuries from scalding, burns and poisoning.

The WHO guidelines for indoor air quality: household fuel combustion (2014) provide technical recommendations for policy-makers and specialists working on energy, health, environmental and other issues to ensure health benefits from the clean energy transition.

In support of the implementation of the guidelines, WHO has developed a tool, the Household Energy Assessment Rapid Tool (HEART), to identify relevant stakeholders, and map out a country's policies and programmes on household energy and/or related health impacts. The tool is being

pilot-tested as a guide to conducting rapid situational assessments of countries' readiness to address access to clean energy technologies. It is used to gather and synthesize information on household energy use and its public health impacts and to stimulate an informed dialogue on the impacts of household energy interventions, shared responsibilities and coordinated actions, country-specific barriers to implementation and opportunities for the public health sector to accelerate a transition to clean household energy.

The rapid assessment does not take the place of the detailed economic evaluation required in identifying national energy priorities, national and global mapping of disease prevalence associated with polluting fuels, nor the social and political considerations required for implementing major social interventions to support a transition to clean energy. It does provide a broad overview of the current household energy and health situation, identifies key stakeholders and will ultimately support intersectoral cooperation. This report presents the results obtained with HEART in Ghana.

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