

# PARTNERSHIP FOR CLEAN INDOOR AIR (PCIA)



## FACT SHEET

### The Challenge

More than half of the world's population—three billion people—cook their food and heat their homes by burning coal and biomass, including wood, dung, and crop residues, over open fires or rudimentary stoves. Indoor burning of solid fuels releases dangerous particulate matter, carbon monoxide, and other toxic pollutants; leads to indoor air pollution levels that are 20 to 100 times greater than the World Health Organization's (WHO) air quality guidelines; and releases greenhouse gases into the air. Unfortunately, the health risks and threats to the environment are on the rise: the International Energy Agency estimates that 200 million more people will use these fuels by 2030.

WHO estimates that 1.5 million people die prematurely each year from exposure to indoor smoke. In fact, indoor air pollution from household energy is ranked fourth in the list of serious threats to health in less developed countries, after malnutrition, unsafe sex, and unsafe water.

Women and children face the greatest risks. Breathing unsafe levels of smoke indoors more than doubles a child's risk of serious respiratory infection and is associated with pregnancy problems, such as stillbirth and low-weight babies.

### The Solution

To address this challenge, a group of committed organizations joined forces in 2002 at the World Summit on Sustainable Development to launch the Partnership for Clean Indoor Air (PCIA). Already, key PCIA Partners have reported helping 1.4 million households to adopt clean cooking and heating practices, reducing harmful exposures for more than 7.6 million people. By 2010, these Partners plan to reach another 6 million households. As more PCIA Partners establish goals and report progress, these results will grow.

In addition to the significant health benefits for women and children, improved cooking and heating technologies and fuels have social, economic, and environmental benefits. Women and children spend less time collecting fuel, allowing more time for important educational, economic, and family activities. Clean burning and fuel efficient cooking and heating practices also reduce carbon emissions, deforestation, erosion, and desertification caused by burning solid fuels.

Globally, improved household energy practices contribute to achieving the Millennium Development Goals to reduce child mortality, improve maternal health, eradicate poverty, promote gender equality, and ensure environmental sustainability.

### The Partnership for Clean Indoor Air Mission

More than 170 public and private organizations working in 70 countries have joined the Partnership for Clean Indoor Air. By giving their time, resources, and expertise to reduce exposure to indoor air pollution from household energy use, PCIA Partners are improving health, livelihood, and quality of life, particularly for women and children.

The Partnership focuses on four priority areas which have proved to be essential elements for sustainable household energy and health programs in developing countries:

- ▶ Meeting Social and Behavioral Needs
- ▶ Developing Local Markets
- ▶ Improving Technology Design & Performance
- ▶ Monitoring Impacts of Interventions



## What You Can Do

- ▶ **Join the Partnership** online at [www.PCIAonline.org](http://www.PCIAonline.org).
- ▶ **Share information** and best practices from your work with Partners around the world.
- ▶ **Participate** in Partnership workshops and activities.
- ▶ **Utilize** Partnership protocols and guidance in your household energy and health programs.
- ▶ **Sponsor** a PCIA workshop or other PCIA activities.

## Our Approach

**Capacity Building** – The Partnership provides in-depth technical training in community outreach and education, stove design and performance, market development, and indoor air pollution and socio-economic impact monitoring, the four priority areas for sustainable programs. The Partnership also supports active information exchange to help researchers, entrepreneurs, project implementers, and program directors learn from one another through regional workshops and international meetings and forums. The Biennial Partnership Forums give Partners an outstanding opportunity to share results, best practices, and lessons learned, and set goals for reducing global indoor air pollution.

**Technical Assistance** – The Partnership supports stove testing and technical training and offers technology design

and performance guides to increase the capacity of partners to design and manufacture clean, efficient, and safe cooking and heating technology.

**Project Implementation** – Partners are implementing projects in Asia, Africa, and Latin America to identify effective approaches for increasing the use of clean, reliable, affordable, efficient, and safe home cooking and heating practices.

Partners are committed to expanding the scale and impact of projects that successfully promote fuel-efficient cooking and heating practices that meet users' needs and reduce exposures. These projects integrate successful outreach and education models, market-based solutions that promote local business development, and effective monitoring to track emission reductions and other benefits.

**Knowledge Management** – The Partnership publishes the quarterly PCIA Bulletin, which highlights the activities of the Partnership and its Partners around the world to raise awareness about issues related to indoor air pollution, household energy, and health. Past issues of the Bulletin are available online at [www.PCIAonline.org/Bulletin](http://www.PCIAonline.org/Bulletin). In addition, the PCIA Web site provides background information on household energy and health, access to PCIA publications and other important resources, relevant news and events updates, and highlights of Partner accomplishments.

## About the Partners

The Partnership consists of more than 170 Partner organizations from around the world, including non-profit organizations (55%), private sector companies (20%), governments and multilateral agencies (14%), and educational institutions (11%). Visit [www.PCIAonline.org](http://www.PCIAonline.org) for a complete list and description of Partners.



To learn more about the Partnership and how it is improving indoor air in homes around the world, visit [www.PCIAonline.org](http://www.PCIAonline.org) or contact:

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