

# Financing clean cooking: Shifting from pilots to decisive delivery

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## OVERVIEW:

Nearly 1 billion people in sub-Saharan Africa cook with traditional biomass and ancient stoves, prematurely killing 815,000 people (mostly women and children) from resultant indoor air pollution and risking over 1.5 Gt CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions by 2030, gender inequality, and deforestation. Of the deaths, over 200,000 are children under 5. Globally, 2.3 billion lack clean cooking, with Africa accounting for half, as access stagnates or declines. Despite the magnitude of this issue and its damage to Africa's human capital, investments are largely absent.

The IEA estimates that scaling up clean cooking requires USD 4–37 billion annually, less than 0.1% of global energy investments, dependent on generic policy, financing, and partnerships. Progress is being made. Regional and global attention is beginning to focus on clean cooking in Africa, building on commitments made at the Africa Energy Summit in 2025. Several countries are designing or implementing clean cooking strategies - including Kenya, Tanzania, Nigeria, Mozambique, Ghana, and others.

However, there is still a long way to go. Market fragmentation, low rural penetration, affordability barriers, and lack of committed financing are limiting implementation.

There is a desperate need to shine a spotlight on clean cooking on the continent, and mobilise political will and financing towards addressing it.

## OBJECTIVE

- Secure political commitment for National Clean Cooking Transition Strategies by urging Heads of State and Ministers to adopt or expand strategies with clear timelines, targets, and financing.
- Encourage financing commitments through public-private partnerships uniting government, finance, and industry leaders.
- Incorporate clean cooking into Climate Finance, Carbon Market Strategies, and advocate for its inclusion in national climate plans (NDCs), adaptation frameworks, and Article 6 pipelines.
- Establish an African Leaders Coalition or Taskforce on Clean Cooking to ensure progress toward universal access by 2030 through peer accountability, policy exchange, and collective financing mechanisms & experiences.

## EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Define a roadmap for universal access by establishing policies, investments, and reforms needed for universal clean cooking coverage by 2030.
- Attract private and concessional capital by presenting investable concepts like clean cooking guarantees and local currency instruments.
- Ensure clean cooking features prominently in the ACS2 outcomes and AU climate plans through the Addis Ababa Declaration.
- Foster cross-sector partnerships among government, investors, development finance, civil society, and innovators to speed up action.
- Promote clean cooking as a key climate and development solution, emphasizing its role in climate mitigation, public health, and gender equality.

## EVENT DESCRIPTION

This high-level event, which will include participation from H.E. President William Ruto, H.E. President Samia Suluhu of Tanzania, H.E. President Julius Bio of Sierra Leone, H.E. President Daniel Chapo of Mozambique, and H.E. President Diomaye Faye of Senegal, will focus on how Africa can bridge the critical and ongoing gaps in clean cooking access by mobilising domestic capital and implementing targeted policy and financial tools. Over 950 million Africans, especially women and children, still depend on polluting fuels, despite the availability of viable, scalable technologies. Clean cooking remains severely underfunded, with policy fragmentation, underused guarantee instruments, and limited access to long-term capital slowing progress.

The session will explore what it will take to achieve universal access by 2030, including:

- Unlocking African institutional capital for clean cooking infrastructure.
- Scaling blended finance and guarantee mechanisms tailored for adaptation and inclusive energy solutions.
- Overcoming policy and regulatory bottlenecks.
- Developing African-led investment platforms that integrate clean cooking into broader climate, health, and just transition agendas.

The session positions clean cooking as a flagship use case for mobilising African solutions and capital for resilient development, aligning with the ACS2 theme: "Accelerating Global Climate Solutions: Financing for Africa's Resilient and Green Development." It supports ACS2's goals by providing practical ways to unlock domestic funding for clean cooking through innovative tools like guarantees, blended finance, and risk-sharing mechanisms. The session highlights the role of women, rural communities, and health equity in just transitions, and features African-led financing models and public-private partnerships to improve access. It also presents policy and institutional reforms to lower investment risks and boost capital flow, illustrating how clean cooking benefits resilient infrastructure, air quality, forests, and climate-adaptive livelihoods. This platform encourages coordinated leadership and commitments ahead of COP30 and influences the Addis Ababa Declaration.