



ACCELERATING SDG 7 ACHIEVEMENT

ACTION BRIEF 2

GLOBAL ENERGY AND HEALTH PLATFORM OF ACTION

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



ACTION BRIEF #2

GLOBAL ENERGY AND HEALTH PLATFORM OF ACTION

Developed by

World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Development Programme (UNPD)

In collaboration with

International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)

Summary

WHO and UNDP, together with other key stakeholders such as the World Bank, IRENA, Sustainable Energy for All, the United Nations Foundation, and the Clean Cooking Alliance, are currently building a mechanism for enhanced cooperation among health and energy actors through the establishment of a multi-stakeholder Health and Energy Platform of Action (HEPA).

HEPA's first objective is to mobilise high-level political and financial attention, and commitments to support energy access, particularly for clean cooking and electrification of health care facilities, by bringing together group of 10 to 15 'health and energy champions.' This group will raise awareness about health and energy linkages, provide strategic leadership, call upon policy makers for action, and ensure broad communication and outreach about these issues.

Second, HEPA aims to build a consortium of energy and health practitioners to provide direct support to countries in designing, implementing, and monitoring progress for a 'healthy' sustainable energy transition.

Third, HEPA will develop and disseminate a set of health-targeted communications materials, focused on clean household energy and electrification of healthcare facilities, and aimed at local communities, building on WHO's Breathe Life Campaign and the advocacy work of other partners like IRENA, ENERGIA, Hivos, and the Clean Cooking Alliance.

Health and energy linkages

Well into the 21st century, over 3 billion people around the world still rely on polluting fuels and technology combinations to meet their basic daily energy needs for cooking, heating, and lighting. Almost 4 million deaths per year are attributed to household air pollution from cooking alone. In addition, an estimated 1 billion people rely on health facilities that operate without electricity, which seriously limits access to basic health services. Lack of modern and sustainable energy services in homes and communities has major adverse effects in terms of air pollution, health issues, and social inequities.

SDG 3 (Health) targets:

- 3.2: Reducing neonatal and under-5 mortality rates
- 3.4: Reducing the mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular diseases, cancer, chronic respiratory disease
- 3.8: Achieving universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all
- 3.9: Reducing the mortality rate due to household and ambient air pollution

Given the important linkages between closing the energy access gap and improving people's health and wellbeing, it is critical to have integrated approaches to health and energy challenges, and to address energy-health nexus issues more effectively, particularly in the context of countries with acute energy access gaps. This integration will also provide positive co-benefits in other areas, such as climate, environment, and gender issues. Such integrated approaches will be refined by the HEPA partners over the next year.

Vision for HEPA

The Agenda for Sustainable Development 2030 provides the political impetus to act decisively in addressing energy and health linkages, especially clean cooking challenges and the lack of energy access in healthcare

facilities, and globally aiming to ensure the accelerated deployment of sustainable, scalable, and replicable solutions.

The overall objective of the new Health and Energy Platform of Action is to strengthen the cooperation between different stakeholders working in the health and energy sectors. This will help improve the health and wellbeing of billions around the world through the adoption of clean and sustainable energy.

HEPA's specific objectives:

- **Calling for commitments and mobilizing support**

A lack of high-level political and financial attention and commitments creates critical barriers for achieving SDG 7 energy access targets, particularly clean cooking and electrification of health care facilities. A first step of the HEPA is the establishment of a high-level group on energy and health. The aims of this group of 10 to 15 health and energy champions will be to raise awareness about health and energy linkages, provide strategic leadership, and call upon policy makers for action. This group will play a critical role in ensuring broad communication and outreach about these issues.

Building a network of sustainable energy and health partners for enhanced technical cooperation and knowledge sharing among energy and health actors

There are numerous actors working on energy access and/or related public health issues, but often these efforts are unaligned, under-utilised and/or running in parallel or competing with other initiatives with similar objectives. The HEPA aims to build a consortium of energy and health practitioners, equipped with specialised knowledge and tools, that can be called on to provide direct support to countries in designing, implementing, and monitoring progress for a 'healthy' sustainable energy transition.

- **Strengthening public awareness about the health impacts and other benefits of clean energy, particularly clean cooking and electrification of health facilities, through focused advocacy and outreach at the local, regional, and global level**

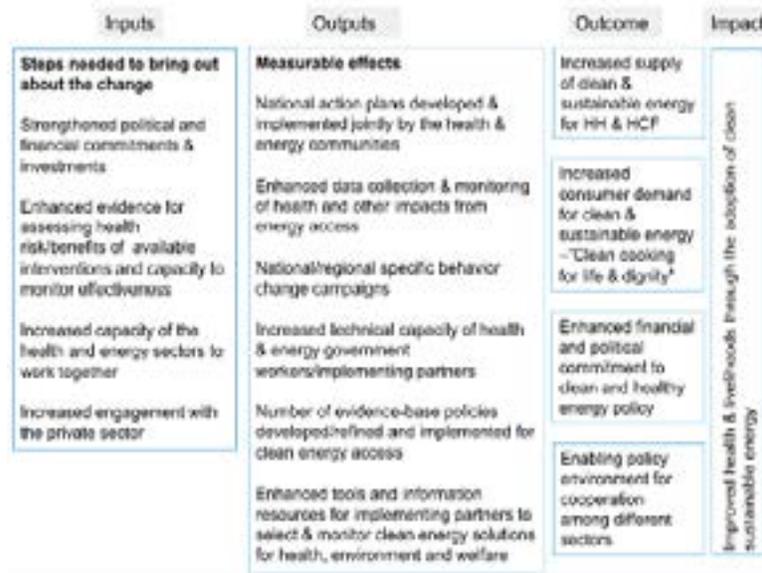
A lack of awareness about the health and other benefits of clean cooking and access to energy in healthcare facilities is a critical barrier at the political level and at the end user / community level. Utilising the strong communications network and branding of WHO's Breathe Life Campaign, and complementing the strong advocacy work of other partners like IRENA, ENERGIA, Hivos, and the Clean Cooking Alliance, a set of health-targeted communications materials focused on clean household energy and electrification of healthcare facilities will be developed and disseminated via the web and various public fora, aimed at local communities.

Priority areas of action

Two initial 'health and energy' priorities for HEPA will be: achieving universal access to clean cooking, as called for in the Ministerial Declaration of the 2018 UN High Level Political Forum;¹ and promoting renewable energy solutions to healthcare service provision in un-electrified and under-electrified areas.

Draft framework overview

¹ https://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/HLS/2018/1&Lang=E



How will HEPA facilitate, foster, and promote cooperation between the health and energy sectors?

A secretariat will lead consultations and facilitate interactions between technical support teams and countries. Technical support teams will capitalise on and harness existing initiatives in the field of sustainable energy access for clean cooking and healthcare facilities.

Priorities

To catalyse the scale of results required to achieve SDG 3 on health and SDG 7 on energy, the inclusive platform will initially focus on clean cooking and electrification of healthcare facilities by:

- **Mobilising significant political commitments, support, and resources, and finding ways of encouraging new public and private commitments** from the energy and health sectors, as well as from the climate change action arena.
- **Developing global implementation roadmaps** for the priority areas of action identified for and by this platform.
- **Demonstrating leadership** by initiating significant actions and initiatives, in partnership with relevant stakeholders.
- **Conducting advocacy and outreach efforts to strengthen the** high-level engagement opportunities related to SDGs, especially on health, energy, environment, gender, and climate change.
- **Promoting an interdisciplinary approach** engaging a variety of stakeholders at the global, regional, and national level and building on existing initiatives while avoiding duplication of effort, fostering alignment, and creating strong synergies.
- **Working in close cooperation** with the SDG 7-TAG and drawing on the experience and commitments of UN-Energy members, international and national organizations such as the World Bank Group, and many other relevant existing health, energy, and gender networks and civil society organisations, including Hivos and ENERGIA.

Levels of action

Three key levels of support have been identified to advance energy and health collaboration to meet the SDG 3 and 7 targets:

At the political level:

- A high-level group of champions will raise awareness on the impacts of clean energy and mobilise needed political and financial commitments (both public and private investments).
- This group will engage (and facilitate interaction) with governments and legislators, as well as other stakeholders, including financing institutions, donor countries, and foundations.
- The group will also build a network for enhanced political cooperation on policies and implementation.

At the technical level:

- Cooperation will be reinforced between governments and other representatives of health, energy and other sectors (e.g., environment, social welfare, and financing institutions) to develop and implement national action plans for accelerating the transition to clean and sustainable energy, starting with clean cooking and electrification of health facilities.
- A common set of tools and resources for the health and energy sectors will be developed and disseminated to plan, monitor, and evaluate health and other impacts of energy interventions.
- A 'community of practice' will be established for health, energy, and environmental actors to share and exchange information.

At the community level:

- Mechanisms will be set up to increase awareness through local targeted communications campaigns.
- Clinicians, nurses, and community health workers will be encouraged to support the dissemination of clean and sustainable energy interventions.
- The role of the energy sector in speaking about health and clean energy issues will be strengthened.
- Access to finance and affordability may also need to be considered to ensure sustained adoption.



Next steps

In the upcoming year, to advance the development and roll-out of this new Platform of Action, meetings will be organised with a variety of stakeholders to see how to best ensure the maximisation of each partner's contribution to the platform. Consultation processes have already been started to capture government and country priorities, as well as to harness the strengths of the various partnering organisations.

Efforts will focus on building high-level political support and understanding of the health and other benefits of the clean energy transition, including by establishing the high-level group on energy and health. Virtual meetings will be used as a mechanism to kick off the high-level group, followed by face-to-face meetings and consultations at high-level events.

The platform will soon begin working in certain countries to develop an enhanced understanding of the different stakeholders, policies, and programmes on energy and health issues at the country level.

The Platform will also continue to strengthen public awareness about the health and other benefits of clean energy, particularly clean cooking, through focused advocacy and outreach at the local, regional and global level.

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**HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

7 AFFORDABLE AND
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