



Youth and Clean Cooking

THE CHALLENGE

Ninety percent of the world's 1.8 billion youth live in developing countries where most people rely on polluting fuels and stoves to cook their food. These cooking methods can have substantial negative impacts on young people, both in terms of the population affected and the cross-cutting nature of the impacts, including on health, climate, local environment, education, and employment. >>



Clean Cooking is a Youth Issue:

237,000+ children

under the age of 5 die every year from household air pollution.

Over 80%

of displaced people, half of whom are under age 18, rely on firewood and charcoal for cooking.

Over 70 million

young people are unemployed worldwide.

244 million

children and youth are out of school, globally.



We must first get young people interested in the clean cooking space. Then, we must provide them with the much-needed information, skills, and career opportunities, and when necessary, provide funding for their innovative ideas.

Kakembo Galabuzi Brian
Executive Director, WEYE Clean Energy

» Lack of access to clean cooking disproportionately affects young women and girls, who can spend up to 20 hours per week gathering fuelwood, limiting their opportunities for education and income generation, and increasing their risk of gender-based violence. Yet, despite making

up the overwhelming majority of people affected by this issue, young people—particularly young women—remain underrepresented in the clean cooking sector. Reaching universal access to clean cooking is not possible without dramatically scaling up youth-focused training and investment.



THE SOLUTION

Improving access to and affordability of clean-burning stoves and fuels will reduce climate-harming emissions and create healthier environments for children and young people to thrive. However, without urgent action, 2 billion people will still be without access to clean cooking in 2030. Achieving universal access at the scale and pace necessary requires the participation and leadership of young people, who have a critical role in driving innovation, raising awareness, and advocating for change. Meaningful youth engagement requires creating opportunities for youth to participate in decision-making, building their capacity to engage in advocacy and

employment, and investing in youth-led initiatives and organizations. With the energy and dedication of youth driving change in clean cooking, there is hope for a future where everyone has access to clean, safe, and efficient cooking solutions.





PRIORITIES FOR ACTION

The following priorities are vital to activating meaningful, youth-led change and unlocking equitable youth engagement toward achieving universal access to clean cooking.

Raising awareness among youth.

Cooking with readily available and traditional fuels is often normalized into an accepted social practice. By being aware of its harmful impacts, young people can play an active role in reducing indoor air pollution, mitigating climate change, alleviating the burden on women and girls, and contributing toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Empowering youth to lead.

Youth empowerment cannot be achieved without advocating for inclusive policies based on young people's changing priorities, challenges, and aspirations related to their engagement in the clean cooking sector. Improving access to information, skills, opportunities, and finance can empower youth to apply their unique talents to strengthening the clean cooking sector.



Creating inclusive spaces for youth action.

Meaningful youth engagement requires inclusive and open spaces for dialogue so that young people have the opportunities and platforms they need to enact change. It is crucial to elevate youth voices, encourage youth participation across relevant dialogues and decision-making processes, and offer youth access to a diverse set of clean cooking stakeholders.



CCA can play a critical role of connecting youth companies with well-established clean cooking companies, enabling youth to have meaningful engagement in the sector.

Ben Odongo

Business Lead for Electric Cooking, UpEnergy Group



In 2022, CCA launched a 6-month youth consultation process to inform the development of its Youth Engagement Strategy. The consultation engaged youth- and youth-focused organizations to understand the needs and priorities of young people around climate, energy transitions, and clean cooking. CCA's Youth Engagement Strategy [to launch June 2023], directly shaped by these youth voices and inputs from the youth consultation process, is the next step in CCA's commitment to ensure meaningful, equitable, and sustainable youth engagement in clean cooking.

Building a Network of Partners Supporting Youth in Clean Cooking






CCA works with youth-led and youth-focused organizations to empower young people as critical stakeholders in clean cooking and adjacent sectors. Together with partners, CCA supports awareness-raising and professional training, youth leadership and innovation, youth-inclusive funding and policies, and research.



About the Clean Cooking Alliance

CCA works with a global network of partners to build an inclusive industry that makes clean cooking accessible to the three billion people who live each day without it. Established in 2010, CCA is driving consumer demand, mobilizing investment to build a pipeline of scalable businesses, and fostering an enabling environment that allows the sector to thrive. Clean cooking transforms lives by improving health, protecting the climate and the environment, empowering women, and helping consumers save time and money.

**For more information, please visit
CCA online at [CleanCooking.org](https://www.CleanCooking.org)**

-  @cleancooking
-  @cleancookingalliance
-  @cleancookingalliance
-  @Clean Cooking Alliance (CCA)
-  info@cleancooking.org