

CLEAN  
COOKING  
ALLIANCE

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A N N U A L R E P O R T

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The cover of this report features AI-generated images created through the platform [MidJourney](#)

# Mission

**2.1 billion people rely on polluting fuels and inefficient stoves to cook their meals. Clean cooking is essential to modern energy access. It improves health, reduces pressure on forests, cuts climate emissions, saves time, and expands opportunity, especially for women and girls.**

**The Clean Cooking Alliance (CCA) is the leading global organization focused exclusively on clean cooking. We work with governments, companies, investors, and partners to strengthen the policies, markets, data, and institutions needed to expand access to clean cooking at scale.**



Photo credit: Bboxx



## From the CEO

Governments took important policy steps. Public institutions such as schools and hospitals gained ground as a practical entry point for scale. Carbon market tools continued to improve. And clean cooking was elevated in major energy and climate forums.

This progress is important, but it is still fragile. The sector is no longer struggling to make the case that clean cooking matters. The harder question now is whether growing ambition can be turned into scaled and sustained implementation. That is the work CCA is set up to do.

In 2025, we helped governments move from commitments to action. In Sierra Leone, the government launched its first National Clean Cooking Strategy and removed import duties on several clean cooking technologies. In Kenya, senior leaders drew up a financing roadmap for transitioning public institutions to clean cooking. In Nepal, national standards for electric appliances were approved, strengthening future market growth. And under South Africa's G20 Presidency, clean cooking became a standing item in G20 discussions.

These are the kinds of practical steps that turn momentum into lasting progress. I am especially proud of the Clean Cooking Delivery Units supported by CCA in Kenya and Sierra Leone, and our country program in Nepal. These small teams are helping to solve one of the sector's most persistent challenges: responsibility for clean cooking often being spread too widely. With the right capacity support, countries are making decisive progress.

CCA also continued strengthening the tools and data the sector needs to grow. In 2025, this included submitting the CLEAR Methodology for review, testing the Code of Conduct for Responsible Carbon Finance in Clean Cooking, and publishing the Buyer's Guide to High-Quality Cookstove Carbon Credits.

We remained focused on those at the center of the clean cooking transition: the people making daily decisions about energy use. Through our User Insights Lab, we studied how households make cooking decisions and translated those findings into practical tools for companies. Through our dedicated mentorship program, we continued empowering the women leaders who are shaping the sector.

These are real signs of hard-won momentum. In a tight funding environment, the sector cannot afford fragmentation or complacency. We must continue building the conditions for scale: clear policy signals, reliable market information, user-centered solutions, and strong institutions.

In early 2026, member governments of the International Energy Agency (IEA) endorsed a proposal to host CCA as a multilateral initiative. This next chapter will anchor clean cooking more firmly within global energy decision-making while preserving CCA's distinct mission, brand, and all-fuels approach.

As the transition process gets underway, we remain focused on the same goal: turning growing global recognition into real energy access for people around the world. Thank you to our donors, partners, and the many leaders across government, industry, and civil society who make this work possible.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dymphna van der Lans". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line underneath the name.

**Dymphna van der Lans**

CEO, Clean Cooking Alliance

# Supporting Government-Led Action

The benefits of clean cooking cut across energy, health, climate, forests, education, and jobs. That gives governments many reasons to act. However, having responsibility spread across too many institutions can also slow progress. CCA's Delivery Unit Network is designed to bridge that capacity gap.

Delivery Units are small teams, embedded within the highest levels of government, that provide the sustained coordination, technical support, and accountability needed to make tangible progress on clean cooking. CCA partnered with the Governments of Kenya and Sierra Leone to launch the first Delivery Units in late 2023. In 2025, CCA focused on building a strong foundation for success in both countries.

## Sierra Leone: Building the Policy Foundation

In 2025, CCA supported the Government of Sierra Leone in establishing and staffing its Clean Cooking Delivery Unit within the Presidential Initiative on Climate Change, Renewable Energy, and Food Security.

The Delivery Unit helped Sierra Leone make important progress on both policy and market readiness. The government launched its first National Clean Cooking Strategy, giving public institutions, industry, civil society, and development partners a shared framework for action.

In addition, following advocacy supported by the Delivery Unit, the government removed import duties on a wide range of clean cooking technologies. Together, these steps help lower costs and create a stronger foundation for sector growth.

The Delivery Unit also supported Sierra Leone's evolving carbon market framework. In 2025, the team convened a three-day training on clean cooking and carbon markets for policymakers and partners. The training helped identify the issues that still need attention, including regulatory clarity, standards, testing, and broader market readiness.

“

***Only through collective action can we achieve universal access to clean cooking, improve the health and livelihoods of our people, and contribute to Sierra Leone's climate and development goals.***



**Dr. Kandeh Yumkella**

Chairman, Presidential Initiative on Climate Change, Renewable Energy, and Food Security, Sierra Leone

## Kenya: Coordinating Delivery and Unlocking Investment

In 2025, CCA supported the Government of Kenya in establishing and staffing its Clean Cooking Delivery Unit within the Office of the Special Envoy for Climate Change. Over the course of the year, the Delivery Unit helped advance two important areas of work.

First, it helped raise the profile of institutional clean cooking as a national priority investment. It convened the High-Level Summit on Unlocking Finance and Investments for Institutional Clean Cooking, which brought attention to the opportunity to transition schools, hospitals, and correctional facilities to cleaner solutions. The summit resulted in a roadmap for financing a full transition to institutional clean cooking in Kenya.

Second, the Delivery Unit helped strengthen the policy foundation for carbon markets by adapting insights to the Kenyan context, as well as by co-organizing the Kenya Carbon Markets Conference, which produced a set of national policy recommendations. The Delivery Unit continues to work with the National Treasury, Central Bank of Kenya, Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, and Forestry, and other institutions to improve coordination and strengthen the policy conditions for clean cooking investment.

“

***Clean cooking in schools, hospitals, and prisons should be treated as an anchor for the continent's energy transition and a lever to improve education, health, climate resilience, and even government finances.***



**Ambassador Ali Mohamed**

Special Envoy for Climate Change in the Executive Office of the President, Kenya

## Public Institutions as a Route to Scale

Clean cooking is often discussed as a household issue, but public institutions may be one of the clearest routes to increasing energy access. Schools, hospitals, and prisons cook in large volumes every day. Their energy demand is visible, consistent, and easy to plan around, which makes them important not only from a health and service-delivery perspective, but also as a way to aggregate demand, strengthen supply chains, and crowd in investment.

CCA is working to embed clean cooking into institutional and school feeding agendas through national Delivery Units and partnerships with global platforms such as the School Meals Coalition.

In Kenya, this work gained real momentum in 2025. The [High-Level Summit on Unlocking Finance and Investments for Institutional Clean Cooking](#) helped position the transition of schools, hospitals, and prisons as more than a social good. It showed that institutional clean cooking can be a practical investment opportunity with benefits for education, health, forests, climate resilience, and, importantly, public budgets. The Kenya Delivery Unit is now working with financial and business leaders to turn that momentum into a concrete investment pipeline.

“

***When we transform school kitchens, we protect cooks and children, save trees, and teach a generation what a healthy, climate-friendly, and dignified future looks like.***



**H.E. Mrs. Rachel Ruto**

First Lady of Kenya

**READ** 

“Why Clean Cooking in Africa’s Institutions Could Spark the Continent’s Energy Transformation” – an opinion piece by Amb. Ali Mohamed and Kenya Delivery Unit Head Benson Ireri



Photo credit: Niyomufasha Benancilea for WFP

# Strengthening the Tools and Data the Sector Needs

Carbon markets are a powerful tool for increasing the flow of capital to clean cooking, driving down costs for customers and helping companies grow. Accessing these benefits depends on reliable information, trusted markets, and supportive partners.

In 2025, CCA focused on strengthening the tools that build carbon markets, including methodology development, open-access data, and practical guidance for policymakers, project developers, and buyers.

## CLEAR Methodology

In response to strong demand across the sector, the CCA-led [Clean Cooking and Climate Consortium \(4C\)](#) began developing the [Comprehensive Lowered Emissions Assessment and Reporting \(CLEAR\) Methodology for Cooking Energy Transitions](#) in 2022. CLEAR aims to support high-integrity clean cooking carbon projects by improving consistency, transparency, and applicability across different cooking transitions.

After extensive technical work, public consultations, and revisions, in 2025 CCA submitted CLEAR to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change for approval under Article 6.4 of the Paris Agreement, as well as to several leading standards bodies for the voluntary carbon market.

As of December 2025, CLEAR has been available for anyone to use under Article 6.2, as well as by standards organizations. CLEAR's core principles and provisions have already been integrated into several standards and projects around the world, increasing the credibility of the clean cooking carbon sector.

- **First methodology to cover all common cooking transitions, eliminating the need for multiple methodologies.**
- **First methodology created as a public good.**
- **Developed in collaboration with 250+ stakeholders and revised in response to over 1,400 public comments through multiple consultations.**
- **Incentivizes accuracy and transparency, such as directly measuring how much energy households consume.**
- **Incorporates the latest science.**
- **Focuses on accuracy over arbitrary conservativeness, while incorporating conservative default values in cases where data is not available.**

“

***Berkeley Air has been honored to contribute to the development of the CLEAR methodology. CLEAR is an important example of sector-wide teamwork, led by CCA, that improves the market for everyone and, most importantly, lays the foundation for expanded use of clean cooking fuels in homes everywhere***



**Dana Charron**

Managing Director and Co-Founder,  
Berkeley Air Monitoring Group

## Cooking Energy Data Hub

Competitive markets depend on good information. For clean cooking carbon project developers, one of the biggest constraints has been fragmented and difficult-to-access data.

To help address this, CCA partnered with the Stockholm Environment Institute to develop the [Cooking Energy Data Hub](#), an open-access platform that brings together critical data on household energy use and clean cooking. The hub provides real-world, disaggregated data, including sub-national information that supports stronger project design and the effective use of relevant tools, including the CLEAR Methodology.

## Clean Cooking Code of Conduct

Building on its widely endorsed [Principles for Responsible Carbon Finance in Clean Cooking](#), CCA developed a [Code of Conduct](#) to help project developers put those principles into practice.

In 2025, CCA partnered with eight organizations to test the code across different contexts and to gather lessons for further refinement.

“

*Clean cooking companies like BURN use carbon finance to bring health, time, gender, and financial benefits to communities. The Code of Conduct is an opportunity to record and codify best practice to raise standards across the sector and bring confidence to buyers.*



**Molly Brown**

Head of Carbon Strategy, BURN



Photo credit: Office of Kenya's Special Envoy for Climate Change

## Standards, Testing, and Product Confidence

Strong markets also depend on confidence in appliances. For many years, CCA has supported the standards and testing systems needed to ensure cooking appliances meet meaningful benchmarks for safety, performance, and efficiency.

In Nepal, that work contributed to an important milestone in 2025: approval of [new national standards](#) for electric pressure cookers and infrared hobs. These standards strengthen the basis for higher-performing appliances and provide a firm foundation for future market growth and financing.

CCA also refreshed the [Clean Cooking Catalog](#), its global, online database of cooking technologies and performance data. The updated platform improves data consistency, makes it easier for laboratories and manufacturers to report performance metrics, and allows visitors to compare stove characteristics side by side.

**READ**

How CarbonHQ's software and services—boosted by CCA's Digital Innovation Challenge—are helping clean cooking companies grow through carbon finance.

# Making the Sector Easier to Finance

Investment decisions can be made more quickly and confidently when the right market information is aggregated and accessible. In 2025, CCA continued building practical tools to make the sector easier to understand and finance.



Photo credit: CLASP

## Buyer's Guide to High-Quality Cookstove Carbon Credits

Emerging from the 2024 [Summit on Clean Cooking in Africa](#), CCA partnered with 13 organizations to develop the [Buyer's Guide to High-Quality Cookstove Carbon Credits](#). The guide, launched at the New York Stock Exchange in February 2025, provides companies and investors with a practical framework for approaching cookstove carbon credits in an informed and responsible way.

The guide responds to a simple need: many buyers are interested in the climate and social benefits of clean cooking carbon projects but need clearer guidance on how to engage and evaluate carbon projects. By helping buyers ask better questions and understand what quality looks like, the guide supports stronger decisions and encourages better practices across the market.

“

*This guide serves as a trusted companion for aligning corporate strategies with best practices. Together, we can foster a carbon market that not only mitigates climate change but also uplifts communities around the world.*



**Dirk Forrister**

President and CEO, International Emissions Trading Association

**READ**

About clean cooking company Envirofit building a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility in Ghana.

## Strengthening Financial Regulations

In many emerging economies, capital still struggles to flow into carbon markets and the clean cooking ecosystem because the wider financial system is not yet set up to recognize or easily accommodate these assets.

To help address that gap, CCA published a [technical report](#) and [policy brief](#) in 2025 on [financial regulatory pathways for scaling carbon markets](#), with a specific focus on clean cooking projects. The research outlines how financial regulators can better support the recognition and use of carbon credits within financial systems. CCA also collaborated with regulators in Kenya to identify supportive policy options and delivered carbon market training for policymakers in Sierra Leone, working through the countries' respective Clean Cooking Delivery Units.

## Market Intelligence for a Changing Sector

Reliable market intelligence is another basic requirement for investment. In 2025, CCA updated its [Market Intelligence Hub](#), bringing together data on fuels and technologies, country trends, carbon markets, and wider industry performance. The goal is straightforward: give donors, investors, companies, and policymakers clear information they can use.

CCA also published the [fifth edition](#) of its [Clean Cooking Industry Snapshot](#). The report showed a sector that has grown significantly but still faces real financial constraints. Among the enterprises tracked by CCA, revenues grew eightfold between 2018 and 2023, while capital raised grew fivefold, driven in part by a rise in debt financing. At the same time, the report pointed to structural imbalances which, left unaddressed, could limit future progress.

# Keeping People at the Center of the Transition

Clean cooking transitions succeed only when solutions fit into people's daily lives. The fuels and appliances people cook with are shaped by cost, taste, time, convenience, fuel availability, household dynamics, and many other factors. CCA's [User Insights Lab \(UIL\)](#) was created to better understand those decisions and help governments and companies design cleaner options that people will actually adopt and keep using.

The UIL combines the latest thinking in consumer insights, behavioral sciences, and design, to deliver more value for customers at a time when exponential growth in clean cooking adoption is needed. Through its projects, the UIL aims to uncover knowledge, generate solutions, and spark an industry culture shift.

## People Insights Portal

To help companies in Kenya better understand their customers' experiences, the UIL spent 90 hours in 21 households, studying how families use electric pressure cookers alongside other fuels and appliances. CCA translated these findings into the new [People Insights Portal](#), turning ethnographic research into practical insights that companies can use for product development, marketing, and consumer engagement.

“

***The format of the portal brings user experiences to life in a way that builds trust and familiarity with electric pressure cookers. Confidence of use has been a big hurdle for us, and this approach really helps.***



**Dancan Ndùhiù**

Clean Cooking Representative for East Africa, Groupe SEB

## Testing Efficiency Labels

In 2025, the UIL explored whether energy-efficiency labels could influence purchase decisions for improved stoves in rural Kenya, where wood and charcoal remain common cooking fuels. [The study](#) examined factors such as willingness to pay and consumer understanding of efficiency information. Its findings showed that labels can help, but only when paired with broader efforts to build awareness and address affordability.

“

***I bought the electric pressure cooker because it saves time when cooking beans and stews, without compromising on flavor or nutrition. It's been a great addition and helps me save on fuel.***

**Everlyne**

Study participant



Photo credit: CCA

**READ**

In NextBillion's most-read article in November 2025, CCA shared how customer-centered approaches can motivate behavior change in support of clean cooking and other merit goods.

“

*I joined the program at a point when I needed guidance on navigating the job market and exploring venturing into carbon finance for improved cookstoves. My mentor connected me to so many opportunities, helped me build my confidence, and, through her support and guidance, I was able to secure a new position.*



**Mercy Mutavi**

Environment and Energy Expert,  
NORCAP



Photo credit: Sistema.bio

## Advancing Inclusive Leadership

Women shape the clean cooking sector every day: as primary users, community leaders, entrepreneurs, policymakers, and business leaders. A stronger sector needs stronger leadership, and women are central to how this sector grows.

Since 2021, CCA has supported women across the sector through the [Women in Clean Cooking \(WICC\)](#) mentorship program. Jointly run by CCA, Sustainable Energy for All, and the Global Women’s Network for the Energy Transition, the program provides mentorship, career development, goal setting, and peer connection.

In 2025, CCA celebrated the graduation of the program’s fourth cohort, composed of 63 mentees representing 20 nationalities across Africa and Asia. Participants took part in networking sessions and webinars on topics including carbon markets, entrepreneurship, fundraising, and leadership, and each mentee was paired with an experienced mentor for tailored support.

Since its inception, WICC has supported more than 240 women as they deepen their leadership and contribution to the sector.

“

*I leave this mentorship program with greater knowledge, renewed courage, and a strengthened sense of purpose*



**Zaida Botão**

Chief Marketing, Sales, and Gender Officer,  
Mozambique Carbon Initiatives

# Moving Clean Cooking Further into the Mainstream

Clean cooking continued to gain ground in major international discussions. That matters because global recognition can help unlock policy attention, finance, and political backing—but it must also lead to action. CCA’s role is to help make that connection, linking global momentum to practical tools, country priorities, and implementation support.

## G20 Energy Ministers’ Dialogue

Under South Africa’s G20 Presidency, leaders [agreed](#) to elevate clean cooking as a standing item in G20 discussions—a first in the forum’s history. The meeting resulted in an action plan to close the clean cooking access gap, including through innovative funding mechanisms and technology transfers. This milestone reflects years of work by South Africa’s Department of Mineral Resources and Energy, the IEA, the African Union, CCA, and other partners.

“

*The legacy of South Africa’s Presidency is to lift clean cooking into the mainstream agenda of the G20, the most industrialized powerful countries in the world.*



**Kgosientsho Ramokgopa**  
Minister of Electricity and Energy,  
South Africa

## COP30

For the first time, clean cooking was explicitly [referenced](#) in an official COP outcome document: the Just Transitions Work Program. A few years ago, clean cooking struggled to register in global climate discourse. Now, it’s woven into conversations on national investment plans, energy transitions, Nationally Determined Contributions, and climate finance strategies. Initiatives like the CCA-led [4C](#) are providing countries with the technical tools, capacity, and support to turn these political opportunities into concrete action. This progress also reflects CCA’s direct support to leaders using their positions to elevate the issue of clean cooking.

## Second Summit on Clean Cooking in Africa

In 2024, CCA supported the IEA in convening the first [Summit on Clean Cooking in Africa](#), which resulted in financial pledges of US\$2.2 billion by governments and the private sector. Building on this historic convening and its achievements, CCA continues to help shape the discussions for the [2026 Summit on Clean Cooking in Africa](#).



“

*By uniting governments, private sector partners, and communities, CCA has shown that access to clean cooking is not only possible but transformative — improving health, advancing gender equality, and driving climate action. As I look ahead, I am inspired by CCA's impact and confident that, together, we can accelerate progress toward universal access.*



**H.E. Samira Bawumia**

CEO, Samira Empowerment and Humanitarian Projects; former Second Lady of Ghana; CCA Global Champion.



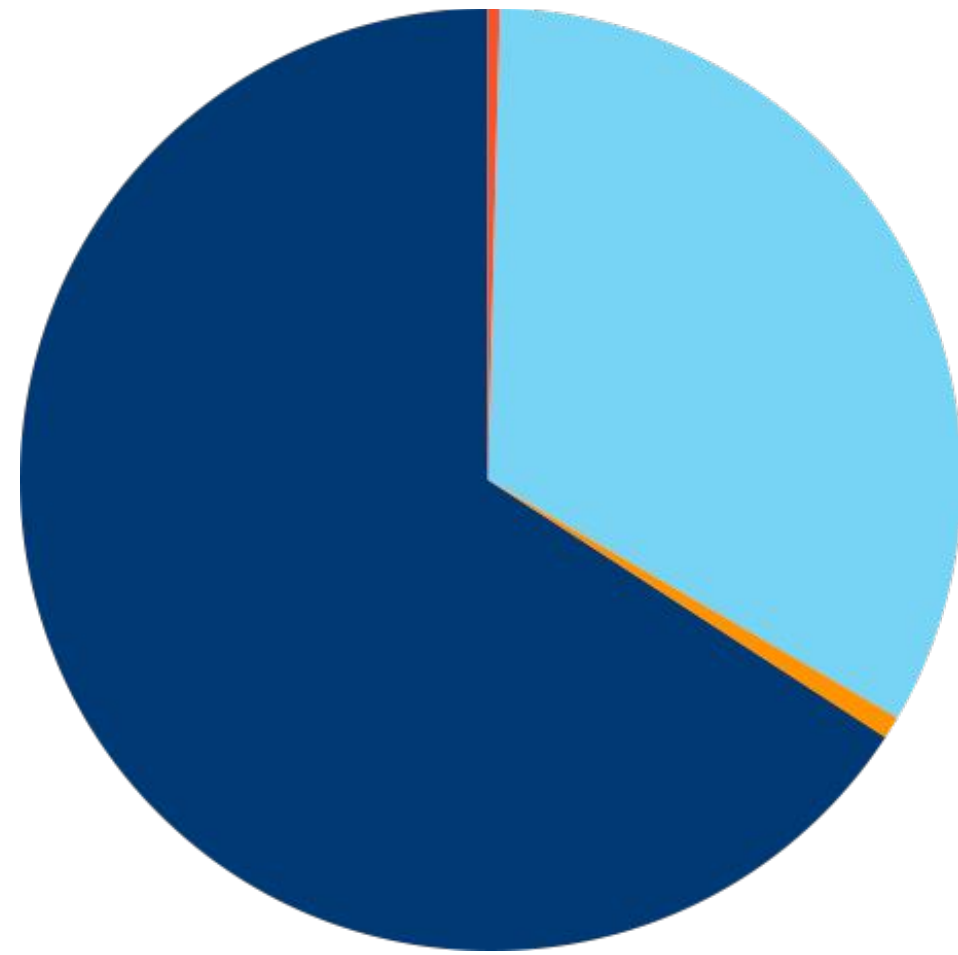
[READ THE FULL INTERVIEW](#)



Photo credit: Daniel Mutema for CCA

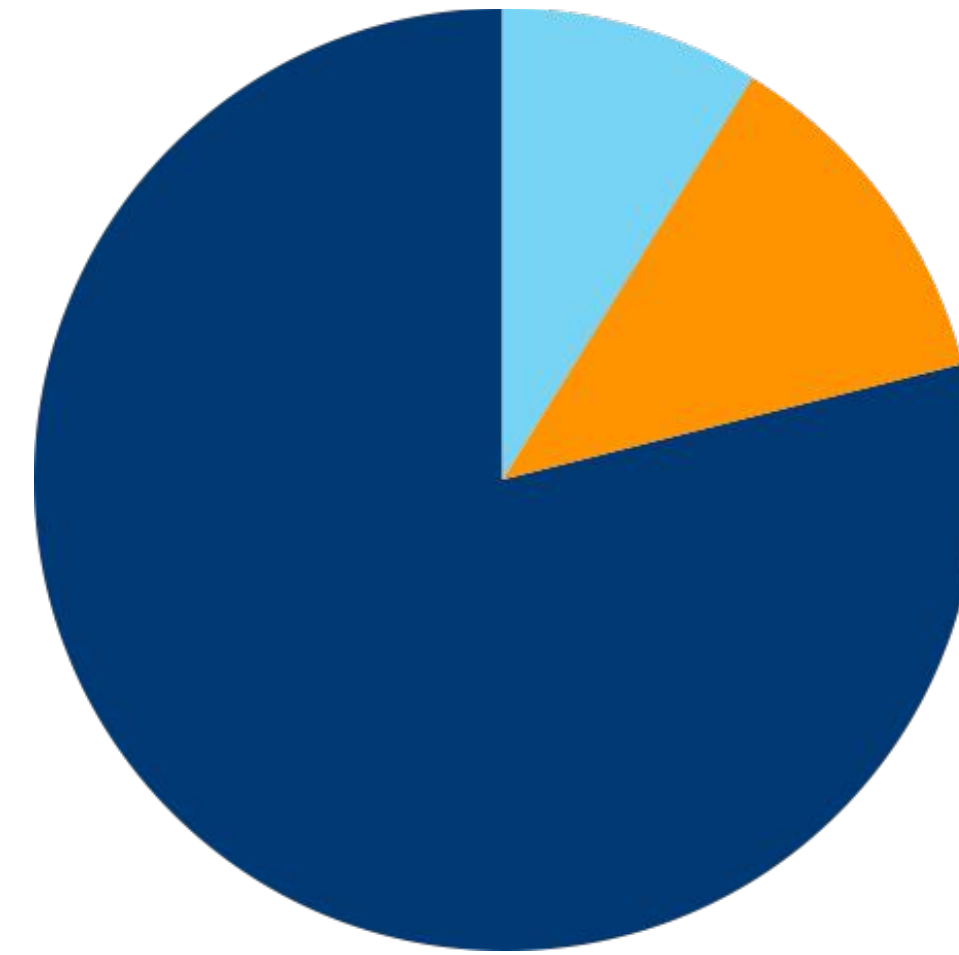
# Financials

CCA is grateful for the generous financial support of its donors in 2025.



## How CCA's Work Is Funded

- Bilaterals/Multilaterals 65.83%
- Foundations 33.27%
- Individuals 0.71%
- Corporations 0.19%



## Where Donor Support Goes

- Program 79%
- Management 12%
- Overhead 9%

## Donors



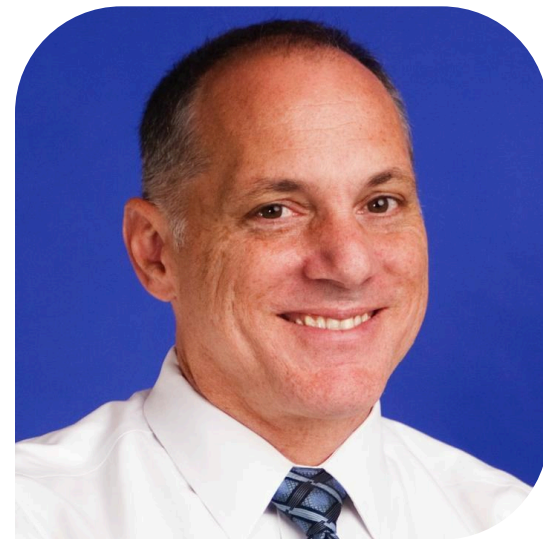
# Leadership

CCA's Advisory Committee provides strategic counsel to CCA and offers diverse viewpoints that are critical to advancing innovation, investment, and impact across the clean cooking ecosystem. Advisory Committee members are also part of CCA's Leadership Council, composed of high-level global advocates working to ensure that no one's life is limited by how they cook.

## Advisory Committee



**Kris M. Balderston**  
President, Balderston  
Strategic Partnerships



**Henry De Sio**  
Chief Operating  
Officer, United Nations  
Foundation



**Chebet Lesan**  
Founder and CEO,  
BrightGreen Renewable  
Energy



**Wanjira Mathai**  
Managing Director for Africa  
and Global Partnerships,  
World Resources Institute



**Damilola Ogunbiyi**  
CEO and Special  
Representative of the UN  
Secretary-General,  
Sustainable Energy for All



**Koen Peters**  
Business Development  
Officer, Dutch Fund for  
Climate and  
Development, SNV



**Dymphna van der Lans**  
CEO, Clean Cooking  
Alliance

## Leadership Council

**Hillary Rodham  
Clinton**

Former Secretary of State,  
United States

**Hajia Alima  
Mahama**

Former Ambassador of Ghana  
to the United States

**Gina  
McCarthy**

Former White House National  
Climate Advisor, United States

**Mary  
Robinson**

Member of The Elders; former  
President, Ireland

# Champions

CCA Champions include internationally renowned individuals from the culinary, film, and philanthropic fields who work closely with CCA and its partners to drive greater awareness, engagement, and support for clean cooking.



**José Andrés**  
Founder, World Central Kitchen; Chef and Owner, ThinkFoodGroup



**H.E. Samira Bawumia**  
CEO, Samira Empowerment and Humanitarian Projects; former Second Lady of Ghana



**Rocky Dawuni**  
Grammy-nominated musician; Founder, Rocky Dawuni Foundation

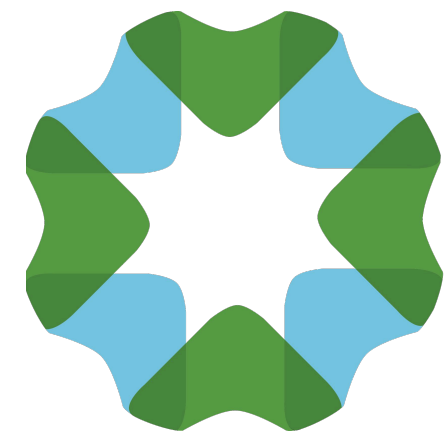


**Julia Roberts**  
Academy Award-winning actor



The graphic features the Clean Cooking Alliance logo and 'GIVING TUESDAY' text at the top. Below is a photo of children in a classroom eating from green bowls. The text reads: 'Donate Today to Fuel the Future: Clean Air, Protected Forests, Safe Kitchens'. It also says 'Join us on December 2 for GivingTuesday' and 'Your donation will help accelerate access to clean stoves and fuels in schools around the world.' A red button with a hand icon is at the bottom right.

The social media post is from juliaroberts, posted 19 weeks ago. The text says: 'Cleaner stoves mean healthier kids, safer cooks, and more resources for learning. Proud to support @cleancookingalliance from the start. This #GivingTuesday, consider making a donation toward this safer future for all. Donate through link in bio.' The post includes icons for likes, comments, and shares.







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Photo credit: SPI Nepal for CCA

### Social Media

-  @clean cooking alliance (CCA)
-  @cleancooking
-  @cleancookingalliance
-  @cleancookingalliance

### Website

 [cleancooking.org](https://cleancooking.org)

### Email

 [info@cleancooking.org](mailto:info@cleancooking.org)