Background

Over 8,500 children die every year in Bangladesh from diseases caused by household air pollution. This indoor air pollution is primarily produced by the traditional cooking and heating practices which use solid fuels, such as fuelwood, agricultural residues and dung. Nine out of every ten Bangladeshi households rely on solid fuels to cook which produces a range of health damaging pollutants such as fine particles and carbon monoxide. Household air pollution causes 78,000 premature deaths in Bangladesh every year, equivalent to approximately 15% of all deaths. Women and children are the major victims here, since the health and time burden of fuel collection and inefficient cooking almost entirely falls on them. The lack of access to clean cooking energy also increases pressures on forests and habitats and leads to increased emissions of harmful pollutants that contribute to climate change. Countries with similar income levels as Bangladesh have successfully switched to modern, clean cooking solutions. Therefore, while inefficient cooking methods are still prevalent in Bangladesh, transitioning to cleaner cooking solutions is possible in the near term. This transition will greatly improve household energy access and bring about broader sustainable development gains in Bangladesh.

Policy Breakfast

Household air pollution and clean cooking have not received appropriate urgency, attention, and financing at the global or national level. These issues are still widely unknown or misunderstood. However, both in Bangladesh and globally, the issues are gaining more attention. Clean cooking is directly included in the Sustainable Development Goals and understood as a tool for delivering the Paris Agreement. Additionally, Bangladesh has as Country Action Plan on clean cooking, which calls for an additional 30 million households to adopt clean and efficient cookstoves and fuels by 2030. The country also included clean cooking within its national plan to implement the Paris Agreement. While these agendas and policies are foundational, they are not sufficient. There is still a need for additional conducive policies to improve access to clean and efficient cookstoves and fuels for millions of Bangladeshi households, especially within broader financial, health, climate, and women’s empowerment policy efforts. Therefore, this policy breakfast aims to create a platform where influential representatives from the government, private sector, and civil society come together to discuss opportunities to scale access to clean cooking through policy.
Clean Cooking Directly Support Achievement of 10 of the SDGs:

- End poverty through saving time and money
- Reduce burden of fuel collection, more time for work
- Reduce burden of diseases caused by household air pollution
- Reduced time spent on fuel collection and cooking can enable girl’s educational opportunities
- Clean cooking reduces women’s unpaid work and opens up economic opportunities
- Essential to ending energy poverty and sustainable energy access
- Enhances productivity, enables economic growth and provides job opportunities
- Reduces air pollution and increases resource efficiency
- Reduces black carbon and climate vulnerability
- Reduces deforestation and land degradation
- Essential to ending energy poverty and sustainable energy access

Barriers of adopting clean cookstoves:

**Lack of market penetration**
- 500,000 improved cookstoves are functioning, representing only 3% of the total market penetration
- Dissemination of 2.5 million improved cookstoves till end of 2016

**Products quality/Innovation**
- Innovation and improved manufacturing can greatly enhance the quality and performance of technologies and fuels, which will encourage more households to purchase and use clean cooking solutions.

**Tariff barriers**
- High duty on improved cookstoves (almost 50%) inhibits the affordability of these technologies as well as market growth.
- Value added tax on cookstoves and cookstove materials also makes the products costlier for the household growth.

**Lack of financing**
- There is a significant need for grant, low-cost finances and investment resources to scale the clean cooking sector in Bangladesh.
What Bangladesh is doing in this regard?

**Country Action Plan in 2013**
- Calls for greater action towards achieving universal use of clean cooking solutions by 2030 to meet the goal of “smoke-free kitchens”
- Sets the interim goal of 30 million households adopting clean cooking solutions
- Launches the Household Energy Platform and outlines additional priority interventions.

**Paris Agreement**
- Commitment to incentivize the uptake of improved cookstoves through policy mechanisms, support the transition from cooking with biomass to cooking with LPG, and promote greater energy efficiency at the household level in Bangladesh’s Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

**SDG**
- Clean cooking directly supports the achievement of 10 SDGs and enables progress across the entire 2030 agenda
- Indicators on clean cooking, household air pollution, and women’s unpaid work are included in the SDG indicator framework, meaning that SDG targets cannot be met without increasing access to clean cooking technologies and fuels
What has been done so far

National and Global Commitments

Persisting Barriers

What additional policies and implementation efforts can address the remaining barriers and enable scale up of clean cooking

Format of the session

Keynote from government perspective

Participants join the debate on motion

Additional remarks from non-government perspective

Suggestions are compiled and recorded

Chatham House Rules are followed to encourage candid discussion

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