

SSA RESEARCH INITIATIVES

Duke University Sanford School of Public Policy - CQC Partnership on Gender Benefits and Development Finance Opportunity of Efficient Cookstoves for Women in Rural Africa

In 2020, C-Quest Capital (CQC) engaged Duke University (Duke) Sanford School of Public Policy, to collaborate on a research study to produce a proof-of-concept to quantify women's time spent in drudgery that results from collection of firewood for cooking. Our research partnership is led on the Duke University side by Professor Subrendhu Pattanayak and his colleague, Dr Marc Jeuland. To further expand on this work, CQC agreed to provide \$300,000 over three years to fund additional unique multi-country analysis of time savings and opportunities to use of saved time for post-COVID 19 recovery efforts by this team. With this initial funding secured, Duke responded to a Request for Proposals (RFP) released by the Clean Cooking Alliance (CCA). Their proposal, titled, "Gendered time-use benefits from improved cooking solutions: A pathway to a new type of development impact bond and cooking solutions market stimulus" was selected as a recipient by the CCA this July.

The case for clean energy has been built around health and environmental benefits. This narrative has neglected potentially sizeable benefit(s): when women have clean energy, they can save time and reduce drudgery. Existing development finance instruments have largely ignored such benefits but designing and implementing policy and investment instruments that recognize, value, and respond to energy poverty and asymmetric burdens are key to achieving SDGs related to both gender equality (SDG 5) and access to clean energy (SDG 7). Women typically spend disproportionately more time providing unpaid domestic work and caregiving because of deeply held social norms, attitudes, and stereotypes about appropriate gender roles. A lack of access to modern energy in low-income country settings further exacerbates gender inequalities.

Acknowledging that a lack of quantitative research constrains building a business case for energy-driven women's empowerment, this research is focused on developing better methods for quantifying and valuing the amount of time lost to drudgery related to household energy use, and for translating findings from application of those methods into guidance that is actionable for funders and investors.

The research will focus on our current implementation work in Malawi, Zambia, Kenya, Zimbabwe and Tanzania over the next two years.

² https://www.who.int/airpollution/guidelines/household-fuel-combustion/IAQ_HHFC_guidelines.pdf

