Universal access to clean and sustainable energy is essential to protect health and well-being of the poorest populations. Promoting clean fuels and technologies for cooking and accelerating access to electricity for health-care facilities will contribute to achieve SDG 3 on health and SDG 7 on energy.

HEPA VISION
The Health and Energy Platform of Action’s (HEPA) vision is to improve the poorest populations’ health and livelihoods through the adoption of clean and sustainable energy.

HEPA is a multi-stakeholder platform convened by the World Health Organization (WHO), along with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), the World Bank, and in cooperation with the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). HEPA is a voluntary network consisting of governments, international, non-governmental and civil society organizations, international business associations, philanthropic foundations, and academic institutions working together to ensure universal access to clean and sustainable energy to protect health.

HEPA aims to mobilize political and financial commitments and to enhance cooperation between the health and energy sectors so that actions on achieving SDG 3 on health, SDG 7 on energy and other sustainable development and climate action goals can be accelerated. HEPA will initially tackle health issues related to clean cooking and electrification of health-care facilities.

HEPA OBJECTIVES
- Mobilising political commitments, support & resources
- Promoting global and country implementation roadmaps
- Demonstrating leadership
- Conducting advocacy & outreach
- Promoting an interdisciplinary approach

Encouraging new public and private commitments from the energy and health sectors, climate change action and other arenas.

Promoting development of global and country implementation roadmaps for the priority areas of action.

Identifying significant actions and initiatives with relevant stakeholders, with the overall objective of generating action and maximizing impact on the ground.

Promoting high-level international engagements related to the SDGs, especially those on health, energy, environment, gender and climate change.

Engaging a variety of stakeholders at the global, regional and national level and building on existing initiatives, while avoiding duplication of efforts, fostering alignment and creating strong synergies.

BUILDING CONNECTIONS FOR BETTER HEALTH
Universal access to clean and sustainable energy is essential to protect health and well-being of the poorest populations. Promoting clean fuels and technologies for cooking and accelerating access to electricity for health-care facilities will contribute to achieve SDG 3 on health and SDG 7 on energy.

THE ISSUE
Energy is linked to many of the sustainable development priorities, including on public health, gender equality, food security, clean water, education, economic growth, youths’ and women’s empowerment, and climate change. The absence of clean and sustainable energy has a significant adverse impact on the health and livelihoods of the poorest populations.

Unless rapid action is taken, the world will not meet its targets under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement.

ENABLING HEALTH AND ENERGY COLLABORATION
Improving health by closing the energy access gap requires multi-stakeholder coordination and active participation of actors from the health, energy and other sectors to identify integrated approaches to common challenges. A close collaboration between health and energy sectors can better ensure that the energy demands of health facilities are understood and met with clean and sustainable energy options and that cooking solutions are deployed and adopted can support better health.

Accelerating clean energy access through enhanced collaboration is also critical to achieve health targets for non-communicable diseases and pneumonia prevention, vaccine coverage, newborn and maternal health, as well as to improve emergency preparedness and response.

HEPA MEMBERS
HEPA MEMBERS (AS OF MAY 2022)

HEPA CONVENING AGENCIES
THE WORLD BANK
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
UNDESA
UNDP
THE WORLD BANK
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
UNDESA
UNDP
Gavi
IHEA
UNICEF
UNDP
INTERNATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY AGENCY
HEPA MEMBERS (AS OF MAY 2022)

IN COOPERATION WITH
IRENA
INTERNATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY AGENCY
HEALTH AND ENERGY PLATFORM OF ACTION (HEPA)
www.who.int/initiatives/health-and-energy-platform-of-action
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**LACK OF CLEAN COOKING**

**BILLIONS EXPOSED TO HOUSEHOLD AIR POLLUTION**
Around 2.4 billion people, mostly in low- and middle-income countries, still rely on inefficient and polluting fuels and technologies for daily cooking, heating and lighting needs, exposing them to health-damaging emissions.

**MILLIONS OF PREMATURE DEATHS**
The resulting household air pollution leads to 3.2 million premature deaths each year from pneumonia and noncommunicable diseases including heart disease, stroke, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and cancer.

**WOMEN AND CHILDREN ARE MOST AT RISK**
Health and livelihood risks are greatest for women, children and infants from polluting cooking practices and laboring over traditional stoves and open fires. Fuel gathering consumes excessive time, limiting productive activities such as school attendance, and increases the risks of injury and violence.

**GEOGRAPHICAL IMBALANCE**
The usage of polluting technologies and fuels for cooking is most prevalent in low- and middle-income communities, with 20 countries in Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa account for 80% of the population worldwide without access to clean energy for cooking.

**IMPACTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE**
The traditional use of biomass fuels for cooking puts our environment at risk and contributes to deforestation, with 2 gigaton of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere each year. The adoption of clean fuels and technologies for daily cooking, heating and lighting needs can help mitigate climate change.

**HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF CLINICS WITHOUT ELECTRICITY**
Hundreds of millions of people worldwide are served by healthcare facilities without reliable electricity. It is estimated that one in four healthcare facilities in Sub-Saharan Africa has no electricity.

**BASIC AMENITIES REMAIN OUT OF REACH**
Electricity is necessary for the operation of basic amenities such as lighting, cooling, ventilation, heating and communication systems. Electricity is also essential for clean water supply.

**POOR AND RURAL COMMUNITIES MOSTLY AFFECTED**
While most large, urban hospitals have access to electricity (although often unreliable), access rates drop dramatically when moving to rural health centers with a reliable national grid. They can require a connection to the national grid. They can be rapidly deployed, are adaptable to energy needs, and increase climate resilience.

**PREVENTABLE HEALTH CHALLENGES**
Inadequate and unreliable access to electricity in health-care facilities impact the accessibility and quality of health-care services as opening hours can be limited, people may feel unsafe and recruiting and retaining staff can be challenging.

**ESSENTIAL MEDICAL DEVICES CANNOT FUNCTION**
Without power, critically needed medical devices such as vaccine refrigerators, oxygen concentrators, fetal heart monitors and laboratory and diagnostic equipment cannot function.

**ACTIONS TO MOVE FORWARD**
- **ACCELERATE ACCESS**
  - Decentralized solutions, like off-grid solar systems, do not require a connection to the national grid. They can be rapidly deployed, are adaptable to energy needs, and increase climate resilience.
- **ADAPTABLE SOLUTIONS**
  - Renewable energy can provide health centers with a reliable and cost-effective source of electricity when they need it most.
- **HEALTH AND ENERGY PLATFORM OF ACTION (HEPA)**
  - To better advocate for the public health benefits of having clean and sustainable energy on the ground, HEPA promotes dialogue and the exchange of expertise between the energy and health sectors and collaboration with all relevant stakeholders; facilitation and support to public health benefits from clean energy transition. HEPA promotes the preparation and dissemination of communication materials around health and energy linkages such as videos, flyers and social media kits for stakeholders' outreach and advocacy at the global, regional and local levels.