

Partnership for Clean Indoor Air (PCIA):

DESCRIPTION OF INITIATIVE:

In 2002 the Partnership for Clean Indoor Air was launched by a number of countries and non-governmental organizations at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg. Its goal is to address the increased environmental health risk faced by the nearly 3 billion people in the developing world who burn traditional biomass fuels and coal indoors for cooking and heating. According to the World Health Organization, this increased exposure results in an estimated 1.6 million premature deaths each year, largely among women and children.

The Partnership, which is led by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and operates with the active participation of many other Partners, addresses health risks by bringing together governments, public and private organizations, multilateral institutions, industry and others to increase the use of affordable, reliable, clean, efficient, and safe home cooking and heating practices.

So far, the Partnership has been focusing on addressing four priority areas:

Social/Cultural Barriers: Developing locally targeted training modules for community and local public health leaders in order to identify strategies for understanding and modifying behavior patterns and overcome the cultural barriers regarding use of traditional fuels and stoves.

Market Development: Supporting the development of local business models and markets for improved cooking technology and fuels, including development of micro-finance and other financial assistance options to develop local businesses and spur investments.

Technology Standardization: Developing design and performance guidelines for efficient and needs-responsive cooking and heating technologies and ventilation systems.

Health Effects Monitoring: Identifying and disseminating protocols for health and exposure assessments and increasing the capacity of organizations to document the impact of interventions.

MAINSTREAMING/SUSTAINABILITY:

Over the long-term, the Partnership for Clean Indoor Air will evaluate successful approaches and models for conducting outreach and education, developing local businesses and markets, and monitoring exposure reductions. The goals are to integrate these components, and to scale up projects that promote improved cooking and heating practices that are more efficient, meet users' needs, reduce exposures, and can be produced locally.

The U.S. Government through the EPA is committed to continuing this initiative by providing technical, financial and administrative support to the Partnership. The US Government, through the US EPA and US Agency for International Development, has provided \$1.3 million in funding to support pilot projects by non-profit organizations for the implementation of innovative, community-based pilot programs to reduce indoor air pollution from household energy use.

The grants were selected by an international panel of experts from over 90 proposals submitted. Currently the grants fund projects in Latin America, Africa, India and China. This year EPA is committed to assessing whether there is a need to solicit additional proposals to fill geographical, technological or strategic gaps.

REPLICATING THE INITIATIVE:

Partnership approaches to decrease risks to the environment and human health have been advanced successfully since the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development through such initiatives as the Partnership for Clean Indoor Air and the Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles. Similar partnership approaches can be replicated for use both within and between developed and developing nations, and is currently being promoted by the US Government as a way to reduce, globally, the use and emission of mercury.

LESSONS LEARNED:

1) *Partnerships Work*: So far over 85 partners have signed on are contributing their resources and expertise in a collaborative effort to find long-term solutions to reducing smoke exposure in households around the world from cooking and heating practices.

2) *Getting participation early is important*: Successfully addressing environmental health risks is complicated and requires the active involvement of many sectors – energy, environment, health, education, forestry, business and academia – committed to a common mission. In this case, the mission is to improve health, livelihood and quality of life through reduced exposure to indoor air pollution, primarily women and children, from household energy use.

For more information visit: www.pciaonline.org