

The Global Goals for Sustainable Development offer an historic opportunity to eradicate extreme poverty and ensure no one is left behind. One of the most transformative elements of the Sustainable Development Goals is the commitment to ensure that no one is left behind and that no Goal will be considered met unless it is met for everyone. It is a global recognition that every person counts and deserves fair opportunities, regardless of income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts. Enhanced access to modern energy cooking services will play a significant role in SDG 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy, but there are strong links to several of the other SDGs.

- **SDG 1 No Poverty.** Clean cooking is part of the basic services necessary to lead a healthy and productive life and saves households time and money.
- **SDG 2 Zero Hunger.** Modern energy cooking services give opportunities for reducing the burden on families who would otherwise have to collect, buy or trade their food for polluting fuels.
- **SDG 3 Good Health and Wellbeing.** Reducing smoke emissions from cooking decreases the burden of disease associated with household air pollution and improves well-being, especially for women and children.
- **SDG 4 Quality Education.** Children, particularly girls, are often kept out of school so that they can contribute to household tasks, like cooking and collecting fuel.
- **SDG 5 Gender Equality.** Unpaid work, including collecting fuel and cooking, remain a major cause of gender inequality.
- **SDG 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth.** Energy access enables enhanced productivity and inclusive economic growth. The modern energy cooking services sector offers many job opportunities.
- **SDG 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities.** Clean cooking addresses household and ambient air pollution, resource efficiency, and climate vulnerability.
- **SDG 13 Climate Action.** Up to 25% of black carbon emissions come from burning solid fuels for household energy needs. Modern energy cooking services solutions address the most basic needs of the poor, while also delivering climate benefits.
- **SDG 15 Life on Land.** Up to 34% of wood fuel harvested is unsustainable, contributing to forest degradation, deforestation, and climate change.

Through the MECS programme we will be able to support the aims of the Leave No One Behind partnership, established in July 2016, to drive global momentum to make sure that no one is left behind. The partnership is based on 3 core activities;

Examine - provide data and understanding on who is at risk of being left behind from developments and growth in modern energy cooking services, why they are being or could be left behind, and highlight where those people are.

Engage - work with people around the world on changing the narrative on modern energy cooking services, for the benefit of all and highlighting instances where people are being left behind.

Empower - those who are currently at risk of being left behind and who may be marginalised to be able to speak for themselves and be heard by decision makers and authority holders.