

ENERGY

EAST AFRICA



Approximately 9 out of 10 rural homes in East Africa lack access to electricity; even more rare is access to piped gas. As a result girls spend valuable time collecting resources like charcoal and wood for cooking. These trips must be made during the day when girls should be in school, and put girls at risk of sexual violence. Moreover, cooking with traditional fuels is expensive and generates indoor air pollution which poses a health hazard.

NATURE OF THE PROBLEM FOR GIRLS



LEARN

Collecting fuel and doing chores by hand takes time that girls could otherwise spend on education. Traditional energy sources are expensive, contributing to poverty which can keep girls out of school.



EARN

Homes without electricity may lack access to media, which prevents access to outside information, particularly for women and girls who spend more time at home.

Fewer hours with light constrains productivity. In addition, time spent procuring fuel and doing chores limit hours girls could be earning.



STAY SAFE

Girls are at risk of sexual harassment or assault when traveling from home to collect fuel. Use of traditional fuels indoors creates harmful air pollution and is a health risk. Girls, who are more likely than boys to be cooking or indoors, are at a higher risk for these health problems. Kerosene is a fire hazard.

DEPTH: WHAT IMPACT CAN A SOLUTION BRING?



Frees time to devote to school, reduces responsibilities competing with school time or leading to girls needing to drop out. Reduced household costs can increase potential to pay for both school and school-related costs.



Reduces time poverty which can increase productive hours.



Removes the need for long walks outside the village to collect fuel that could put girls at risk for sexual harassment or assault. Avoids kerosene and indoor air pollution which can improve girls' health and safety.

SCALE: HOW MANY GIRLS CAN BE REACHED?

KENYA



87% of rural homes lack electricity (64% overall). 84% of rural homes use wood to cook, 10% use charcoal.

ETHIOPIA



95% of rural homes lack electricity (77% overall). 86% of rural & 46% of urban homes use wood. 60% of rural homes cook indoors.

RWANDA



90% of rural homes lack electricity (80% overall). 25% of households cook indoors, 70% of rural homes use wood, 66% of urban use charcoal.

TANZANIA



97% of rural homes lack electricity (87% overall). 97% of people living in rural and 96% in urban areas use solid fuel for cooking.

UGANDA



95% of rural homes lack electricity (85% overall). 85% of rural homes use wood; 68% of urban homes use charcoal.

FOCUS: WHICH GIRLS WOULD BENEFIT THE MOST?

Market-based solutions would likely benefit rural and poor girls the most, although there are many city dwellers that would benefit as well. Many energy solutions have benefitted those in the middle or upper class.

SPRING PARTICIPANTS WORKING IN ENERGY

