



Position Statement on AfDB's Support of Clean Cooking and Decentralised Renewable Energy in the Ghana Country Strategy Paper

1.0 BACKGROUND

As Africa's premier development finance institution, the African Development Bank (AfDB) is committed to fostering sustainable economic growth and reducing poverty across the continent. To facilitate economic growth and mobilize resources for improving living conditions, the AfDB employs various instruments. Among its various instruments is the Country Strategy Paper (CSP) which is the bank five-year blueprint outlining the Banks strategic engagement with each member country in Africa.

Ghana has made considerable progress in expanding electricity access rate over the past decades with a national population electricity rate at 88.8.ⁱ Despite improvements in electricity access, a significant portion still relies on traditions biomass for cooking where only about 31% of Ghanaian population had access to clean fuels and technologies for cooking.ⁱⁱ Leading access to clean cooking solutions remaining a critical challenge and progress has been slower in comparison to electrification. Existing disparities including access to decentralized renewable energy systems will require targeted interventions to bridge the current energy gap.

This position paper explores existing opportunities that AfDB can leverage on during development and implementation of the next CSP to accelerate investments geared towards promoting access to clean cooking solutions and decentralized renewable energy in Ghana.

1.1 OVERVIEW OF THE 2019-2023 COUNTRY STRATEGY PAPER FOR GHANA

The CSP for Ghana (2019-2023) that outlined strategic and development priorities represented a harmonious alignment with the nation's developmental aspirations, encapsulated in the Ghana Beyond Aid Charter and the Development Cooperation Policy. The CSP closely integrated with the AfDB's Ten-Year Strategy (TYS) 2013-2022 and its High-5 priorities, showcasing a comprehensive framework for developmental collaboration. The CSP primary objective was to support Ghana in achieving its overarching development goals, emphasizing job creation, economic inclusiveness, and macroeconomic stability. While the CSP articulates a focus on economic transformation and industrialization, this position paper critically examines the AfDB's role in Clean Cooking and Decentralised Renewable Energy. It advocates for targeted interventions in these crucial sectors to amplify their impact on Ghana's sustainable development.

As the tenure of both the 2019-2023 CSP and the 2013-2022 YYS has concluded, the need to develop a new CSP is paramount. The evolving global and local dynamics including the

transition to the Ten-Year Strategy (TYS) 2024- 2033 demands a new CSP to advance Ghana's development priority. Stakeholder input is important for identifying gaps and opportunities, making it imperative for this position paper to advocate for a more inclusive and consultative approach during development of next CSP.

This position paper highlights preliminary strategic insights which should be expanded during the formulation of the upcoming CSO. Opening up space for meaningful consultative engagements targeting CSOs and other key stakeholders will contribute to a strategy that is not only inclusive but also responsive to the needs of communities.

2.0 KEY FINDINGS FROM CSOS REVIEW OF THE CSP ON ENVIRONMENT, CLEAN COOKING, AND DECENTRALISED RENEWABLE ENERGY

The comprehensive review of the 2019-2023 CSP underscores critical gaps related to environmental sustainability. Despite Ghana's economic dependency on the Natural Resource and Environment Sector, the CSP lacks explicit commitments to strengthen the environmental ecosystem during project implementation. The review identifies gaps in connecting Climate Change Policies into the CSP's strategic pillars emphasizing the need to focus on Environment, Climate, and Green Growth and the banks priorities on Decentralised Renewable Energy and Clean Cooking. Hence the importance of a more targeted and inclusive and gender responsive approaches for energy access.

2.1 ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE, AND GREEN GROWTH

The CSP, while acknowledging Ghana's Climate Change Policies, fails to establish clear connections between these policies and the selection of strategic pillars for 2019-2023. Given the urgent need for Climate Action, the paper proposes a robust prioritisation of Environment, Climate, and Green Growth as strategic pillars. It calls for a detailed strategy that recognizes the vulnerability of key economic sectors to climate change impacts and outlines sustainable financing mechanisms.

2.2 DECENTRALISED RENEWABLE ENERGY

While the CSP acknowledges the importance of renewable energy for Ghana's industrialization, it highlights significant shortcomings in achieving renewable energy targets. The existing focus on electricity generation is limiting and overlooks critical components like energy distribution off grid systems that complements grid extension and densification. The recommendation emphasizes the need to reevaluate and update renewable energy targets, ensuring alignment with evolving national needs and technological advancements.

2.3 CLEAN COOKING

The review identifies a significant oversight in the CSP concerning Clean Cooking, a vital contributor to gender inclusiveness. The absence of a clear strategy for supporting access to clean cooking raises significant concerns. The position paper emphasizes the necessity for the AfDB to champion clean cooking and making commitments to contributes towards implementation and alignment with existing global, regional and national clean cooking frameworks.

3.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION FOR THE NEXT CSP FOR GHANA

In conclusion, the analysis of Ghana's Country Strategy Paper identifies several critical recommendations that can significantly shape the nation's path towards sustainable development. The overarching recommendations, which constitute our review and stance on this matter, encompass the championing of Clean Cooking, diversified consultations, alignment with Ghana's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and the empowerment of green job sectors.

3.1 CONCLUSION

This analysis underscores the urgent need for the African Development Bank (AfDB) to reassess and refine its strategic approach in the forthcoming Country Strategy Paper for Ghana. The recommendations presented in this position paper provide a comprehensive roadmap for the AfDB to navigate the complexities of Ghana's development landscape, ensuring a more sustainable and equitable future.

Building on the AfDB's commitment to fostering sustainable development across the African continent, it is essential that Ghana's new Country Strategy Paper aligns with the Bank's overarching mission and goals. The AfDB, through its strategic interventions, aims not only to alleviate poverty but also to catalyze economic growth, enhance infrastructure, and promote sustainable practices.

A review of the AfDB's Ten-Year Strategy (TYS) 2013-2022 reveals a commitment under the Light Up and Power Africa for every household to have access to electricity and clean cooking solutions and technology by 2033. The recommendations outlined in this position paper align seamlessly with these priorities, particularly with the emphasis on Clean Cooking, Decentralized Renewable Energy, and the integration of environmental sustainability into development initiatives.

3.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. Champion Clean Cooking:** This position paper advocates for a holistic approach prioritization of targeted investment and financing to promote access to multi fuels clean cooking solutions in Ghana. Policy coherence is critical in relation to Ghana's policy frameworks, NDCs, and Renewable Energy Master Plan among others. Supporting research and innovation to explore the feasibility of emerging innovative clean cooking technologies and fuels including pioneering electric cooking and other innovative solutions, the AfDB can position Ghana at the forefront of clean energy adoption, improving health outcomes, reducing environmental impact, and propelling the country towards its Sustainable Development Goals.
- 2. Strengthening stakeholder engagement and Diversifying inclusive Consultations:** To ensure inclusivity and effectiveness, the paper recommends engaging a broader range of stakeholders in the development of the CSP. The AfDB should prioritize meaningful and diverse stakeholder engagement by actively involving civil society organizations (CSOs), experts, communities and relevant stakeholders in the development, implementation,

and monitoring of the next Country Strategy Paper (CSP). It is acknowledged that the AfDB is open for CSOs and all relevant stakeholder and holds forums for various stakeholders to address issues but a broader avenue that collectively will push for a strong cause for change in policy and financing to interventions are responsive to community needs and drive impactful policy changes and informed financing decisions.

3. **Alignment of AfDB policies, strategies with Ghana, Ghana's national energy frameworks NDCs (DRE):** The recommendation emphasizes for AfDB should champion a transformative approach by aligning the Ghana CSP with other AfDB regional strategies, including the New Deal for Africa, Regional Integration Strategy Paper (RISP) and with Ghana's evolving national energy frameworks. By prioritizing investments in Decentralized Renewable Energy (DRE) currently lacking great attention, AfDB can drive both economic development and climate action, helping Ghana meet its NDC commitments. Strategic financing in DRE will unlock access to clean energy for all, positioning AfDB at the forefront of Ghana's renewable energy revolution while delivering long-term, sustainable growth.

4. **Empower the Green Job Sectors:** There is an opportunity to strategically invest in Ghana's green sectors to drive economic growth, create employment and promote renewable energy for environmental sustainability. This entails providing financial support for clean energy technology innovations for establishment of innovation hubs and supporting of youth led startups in the country such as the Young Green Entrepreneurs Programme led by SYND. On the technical side, prioritize allocation of dedicated financing mechanisms focused on capacity building towards reskilling and upskilling to prepare the young force for the green economy.

-
- i National Energy Commission, National Energy Statistical Bulletin 2023, <https://www.energycom.gov.gh/newsite/files/2023-energy-Statistics.pdf>
 - ii The World Bank Group, Access to clean fuels and technologies for cooking (%of population) 2022, Ghana. <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EG.CFT.ACCS.ZS>
 - iii African Development Bank Group, The Ten-Year Strategy African Development Bank 2024-2033, <https://www.afdb.org/en/documents/ten-year-strategy-african-development-bank-group-2024-2033>

For further information please contact:

info@access-coalition.org

info@syndghana.org

ACCESS Coalition – <https://access-coalition.org/>

SYND - <https://syndghana.org/>