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Clean cookstoves and clean cooking solutions — Guidelines for social impact assessment

bsi.

National foreword

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO document should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

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For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 285, *Clean cookstoves and clean cooking solutions*.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user’s national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

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Introduction

This document provides guidance for assessing social impacts. It illustrates social impacts deriving from improved cooking and inspires the implementation of such assessments. This document is not exclusive nor comprehensive but provides a solid basis for an assessment. It is important to note that these guidelines are limited by the fact that social impact assessments have been carried out over a limited time and in limited number. Therefore, the guidelines can be considered in evolution.

By social impacts, it is meant consequences to human populations (which can be viewed as harmful or beneficial by those impacted) of any public or private actions related to the adoption of improved cooking solutions that alter and affect the ways in which people live, work, play, relate to one another and organize to meet their needs as members of society (men, women, boys, girls, all ages and all genders). The term also includes cultural impacts involving changes to cooking habits, norms, values and beliefs that guide and rationalize their cognition of themselves and their society[98].

The social impacts this document currently reflects are socio-economic impacts (e.g. gender impacts, employment, entrepreneurship, economic impacts, time use and perception of well-being), health impacts (e.g. accidents and safety, exposure to smoke and resulting health effects, and food security) and environmental impacts. The impact hypotheses however might appear rather linear, even though in reality they are not. This simplified presentation is for illustrative purposes.

This document is a companion to the International Standard for harmonised laboratory testing (ISO 19867) (describing procedures to analyse and characterize the performance of a technology under laboratory conditions) and to the International Standard for field testing methods (ISO 19869) (describing procedures to analyse and characterize the performance of the entire cooking energy system including user behaviour and cooking location in real settings). This document describes procedures to analyse and characterize the impacts people experience after improving their cooking energy system.

Impacts result from the adoption and consistent use of the improved cooking energy system; guidance on assessing adoption and use is provided in ISO 19869.

Stove and fuel stacking is a common practice in which households use various stoves and fuels for specific purposes and cooking tasks. Households commonly adopt an improved cookstove as one cooking tool among others that can accommodate several cooking methods and fuels. This practice can limit or change the intended impacts of a cooking intervention.

This document refers to a solution called “improved cooking energy system” or “improved cookstove”. The term “improved” was chosen as it is generic and inclusive: it includes fuel saving and efficiency, usability, durability, etc. In contrast, the term “clean cookstoves” or “clean cooking solution” does not encompass all issues that are trying to be resolved in the sector. For instance, it does not address efficiency/fuel savings nor include significant social impacts that are, at times, the determining decision factors (besides smoke reduction, comfort, time saving, etc.) that move households to decide to buy and use technologies and change their cooking habits. Therefore, this document uses the term “improved.”

Furthermore, a cookstove alone does not change the cooking reality of families and does not generate all intended impacts. Therefore, this document considers the entire “cooking energy system,” which is a term that reflects and acknowledges the following impact-influencing factors: fuel properties, user behaviour, cooking practice, cooking location and ventilation as well as cooking utensils. Working towards including all these factors will provide the expected benefits.

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Clean cookstoves and clean cooking solutions — Guidelines for social impact assessment

1 Scope

This document provides a guidance to evaluate and assess the social impact of improved cooking energy systems.

This document is an informative document, which provides orientation in terms of:

— considerations for stakeholders involved in the cooking sector;

— background information regarding various social impacts resulting from cooking systems;

— example results chains illustrating the simplified and aspirational causal linkages related to energy transitions; and

— descriptive tools and methods to measure direct and indirect social impacts.

The target group for this document is any stakeholder interested in evaluating the impacts of improved cooking, such as: researchers, development organisations, non-governmental organisations, government bodies private sector companies, and donor or investors.

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminology databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

— ISO Online browsing platform: available at https://www.iso.org/obp

— IEC Electropedia: available at https://www.electropedia.org/

3.1
agency
ability to define one's goals and act upon them

[SOURCE: ISO/TR 21276:2018, 3.6.2]

3.2
baseline
status of a market or a community prior to introduction of improved cooking energy systems, described by measurements and metadata derived from the field

[SOURCE: ISO/TR 21276:2018, 3.3.1, modified — The phrase "community or cooking system" has been replaced by "community", and "prior to intervention" has been replaced by "prior to introduction of improved cooking energy systems".]

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