



World Health
Organization



CHEST
CLEAN HOUSEHOLD ENERGY SOLUTIONS TOOLKIT

Core questions on household energy use



MODULE 4

The Core Questions on Household Energy Use are a set of standard questions that can be integrated into national surveys or censuses to assess clean and polluting fuels and technologies use in households for cooking, heating, and lighting.

The Core Questions were developed by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Bank and are essential for tracking progress towards achievement of Sustainable Development Goal indicators related to energy access and use.

The questions improve upon those historically included in national surveys, enabling a more

detailed understanding of the national energy situation. The questions can be used to evaluate household energy needs, inform the design of energy policies and programmes and monitor clean household energy use after implementation of national energy policies or programmes.

What are the Core Questions on Household Energy Use?

The questions are intended to be included in both national surveys and local projects to document the types of household energy being used in the home and related health impacts.

The questions are available in three different formats, which align with common national surveys such as the USAID Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) and the UNICEF Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS).

Who should use the Core Questions?

How do the Core Questions improve previous surveys?

Existing national surveys and censuses have historically only included one question on household energy – What is the primary fuel used for cooking? The Core Questions improve upon these surveys by providing additional questions on the primary and supplemental fuels and technologies used for cooking, as well as those used for heating and lighting. This information can help governments gain a more complete understanding of all household energy sources, and understand exposure levels due to the use of multiple types of fuels and/or devices. The Core Questions also assess important safety and livelihood impacts of household energy use.

The questions improve upon previous surveys by not only establishing whether a

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