



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?

- Governments seeking to understand national household energy use to design clean household energy policies or programmes
- Governmental bodies or programme implementers aiming to evaluate the impact of household energy policies or programmes
- Implementers of national surveys and censuses



The Core Questions for Household Energy Use capture the use of multiple types of fuels and/or devices.

How do the Core Questions improve previous surveys?

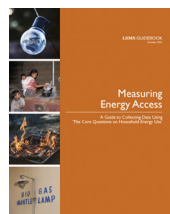
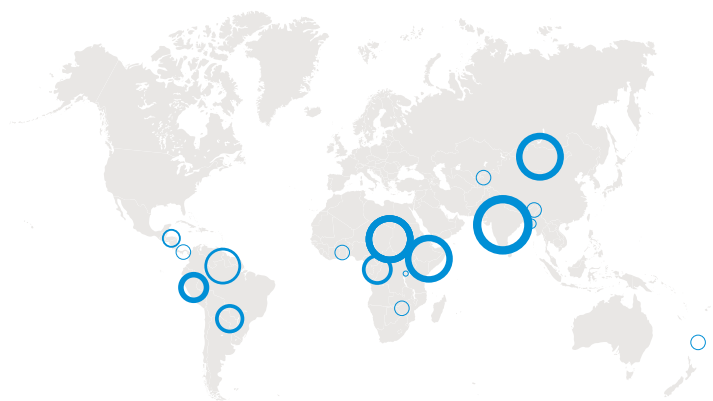
Existing national surveys and censuses have historically only included one question on household energy – What is the primary fuel used for cooking? The Core Questions improve upon these surveys by providing additional questions on the primary and supplemental fuels and technologies used for cooking, 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 household has electricity access, but also assessing the type of electricity access, the quality of access and impediments to access.



The Core Questions on Household Energy Use have been implemented and piloted by a wide range of partners and stakeholders in various countries, including:

Ghana	Costa Rica	Kyrgyzstan
Cameroon	Belize	Zimbabwe
Peru	Mongolia	Tonga
Honduras	Bangladesh	Thailand



Measuring Energy Access: A Guide to Collecting Data Using 'The Core Questions on Household Energy Use'

WHO, the World Bank's Energy Sector Management Assistance Program (ESMAP) and the World Bank's Living Standards Measurement Study (LSMS) developed a guide to collecting data using the Core Questions on Household Energy Use. The guide provides step-by-step instructions on how to incorporate the Core Questions into existing household surveys, guidance for training fieldworkers to administer the questions, and detailed explanations on how to use the data collected to calculate key indicators related to household energy use.



Data collected through the Core Questions are essential for monitoring progress toward SDG7 indicators:

Sustainable Development Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

Target 7.1: By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services

Indicator 7.1.1: Proportion of population with access to electricity

Indicator 7.1.2: Proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology

What information is covered in the Core Questions?

Cooking, Heating, and Lighting:



- Primary fuels used for cooking, space heating, and lighting (i.e. the type of fuel used most often for each purpose)
- Primary technologies used for cooking, space heating, and lighting (i.e. the device used most often for each purpose)
- Other fuels and technologies used by the household for cooking, space heating, and lighting
- Brands of devices used for cooking and space heating
- Amount paid for cooking fuel
- Availability of cooking fuel
- Frequency of cooking and heating device use
- Cooking location
- Ventilation for cookstoves or space heaters
- Accidents or injuries from household use of fuels or devices

Household Energy and Gender:



- Household members responsible for fuel collection
- Time spent collecting and preparing fuel
- Injuries from fuel collection
- Household members responsible for cooking
- Time spent cooking

Electricity:



- Source and provider of electricity
- Types of appliances and number of lightbulbs powered by solar energy
- Electricity availability (i.e. outages, times of availability)
- Accidents or injuries from household use of electricity

Resources and Contact Information

Access the Core Questions and related resources including a training video here:

<https://www.who.int/tools/core-questions-for-household-energy-use>

Questions?

Contact householdenergy@who.int



World Health Organization

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