**Low Carbon Energy for Development Network Conference 2017**

Theme: ‘Equity and Energy Justice’

Sub-theme: Intersectional and structural inequalities

**Authors:** Ronzi Sara1,Puzzolo Elisa2, Hyseni Lirije1, Higgerson James1, Stanistreet Debbi1, Bruce Nigel1, Pope Daniel1

**Institution**: University of Liverpool, Department of Public Health and Policy, Liverpool, UK1; Global LPG Partnership, New York, USA2.

**Title**

Exploring barriers and practical solutions for uptake of clean cooking: Application of photovoice participatory methods in awareness raising and community empowerment as a part of the LPG Adoption in Cameroon Evaluation (LACE) studies.

**Abstract**

Each year approximately 3 million people die prematurely from household air pollution due to domestic use of biomass (wood, charcoal), particularly in lower-and-middle-income countries. Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) represents an affordable, widely available clean fuel that provides health, environmental and gender benefits when used for household energy in LMICs. In Cameroon, 70% of people rely on biomass for cooking, and the Government is committed to a major transition from biomass to LPG by 2030.

This paper reports on qualitative research undertaken for LACE using photovoice methods to investigate factors impacting LPG uptake in South-West Cameroon. Two groups (n=15) of participants from two settings (rural and peri-urban) photographed perceived barriers and enablers to adopting and using LPG. Reflections on the photographs were explored through individual interviews (n=15) and group discussions (n=5). Photographs (n=90) were selected by participants with captions capturing participants’ meaning of the images. Participants’ selected photographs will comprise a photographic exhibition, led by participants, delivered to key stakeholders and community representatives in the study location for awareness raising, community empowerment and promotion of equitable access to LPG. Key barriers (e.g. financial impediments, scarcity of LPG refills) and solutions (e.g. increased LPG retail outlets, access to microloans) will be discussed.