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**PRESENTATION TYPE:** Oral or Poster

**TITLE:** Exploring Barriers and Practical Solutions for the Uptake and Use of Clean Cooking through Photovoice Methods: the LPG Adoption in Cameroon Evaluation (LACE) Studies.

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**ABSTRACT BODY:**

**Abstract:** Background: Each year up to 4 million people die prematurely from household air pollution due to domestic use of solid fuel, mainly in low and middle-income countries (LMICs). Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) is an affordable, scalable, and widely available clean fuel that provides health and environmental benefits when used for household energy in LMICs. In Cameroon, where 70% of people rely on biomass for cooking, the Government aims to increase LPG use from < 20% to 58% by 2035. Few qualitative studies have explored households' perceptions of factors affecting LPG uptake. We conducted community-based participatory research using photovoice methods to explore factors influencing LPG uptake and sustained use in South-West Cameroon. Methods: Two groups of participants from rural (n=7) and peri-urban (n=8) areas photographed aspects of their lives which prevented/enabled LPG uptake in their communities. Individual interviews (n=15) and group discussions (n=5) explored participants' reflections on the issues photographed. We conducted thematic analysis using NVivo 10 software. Results: Main barriers included difficulty in affording the initial LPG equipment and ongoing refills, scarcity of LPG retail shops and safety concerns. Key enablers/solutions included (i) increasing awareness of the benefits of LPG, (ii) additional retail shops, (iii) addressing safety concerns, (iv) repairing roads to improve distribution, and (v) reducing the refill price. We organised an exhibition of participants' photos to generate discussions between participants and representatives from government, communities, industry and media about how to assist communities with fuel transition. Conclusions: Photovoice was found to be an effective participatory approach that (i) identified factors affecting uptake and use of LPG, which could be transferable to Sub-Saharan contexts, and (ii) engaged with participants and key stakeholders to identify how to advance equitable access to LPG in Cameroon.

**KEYWORDS:** Indoor Air Quality, Indoor Environment, Community-Based Participatory Research, X - Other (enter below), X - Other (enter below).

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