

DRAFT BRIEF

A Gap Analysis of Access to Energy at National Levels in Asia-Pacific Region: Policies, Capacities and Knowledge Repositories at the National Level



Regional Centre
in Bangkok

Energy use and poverty are interlinked in many ways. Level of poverty often defines the use of energy – ranging from energy sources such as biomass, which is low in the energy ladder, to higher ones such as electricity. Dependence on sources low in the energy ladder degrades the environment and reduces the productivity of the poor. Recognition of these realities across the globe came in the form of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) set out by the leaders of 189 countries in 2000.

Most of the poor in the Asia-Pacific region use lower energy sources for meeting their energy needs. The energy consumption in the region is expected to increase substantially by 2010. Besides putting increased pressure on fossil fuels and forests, this scenario would not augur well for the global goals of environmental protection and sustainability. Given the strategic importance of creating equitable and affordable access to energy services towards the attainment of development goals and the need for re-orientation of conventional approaches to energy towards the promotion of renewable energy systems, energy efficiency, and cleaner fossil fuel technologies, the UNDP has launched the Regional Energy Programme for Poverty Reduction (REP-PoR) for the Asia-Pacific region. Overall, this Programme will highlight issues that hinder access to energy services by the lower income class, close to the poverty line.

Methodology and Coverage

As a first step towards achieving its objective of assessing how best to reach out to poor, the Programme focused on a national level rapid assessment and a gap analysis of poverty-energy linkages for the Asia-Pacific countries (15 Asia country reports and one report covering 15 Pacific Islands Countries). The process was initiated through workshops in Bangkok, Thailand and Apia, Samoa involving key experts, UNDP Regional Centre Bangkok (RCB) staff, UNDP Country Office energy focal points, and national consultants to arrive at a common framework and methodology for the gap analysis. The regional process was followed by country-level stakeholder consultations with both government and

civil society org. To suggest mechanisms and modalities that addresses specific energy-poverty linkages and related gaps. This activity took stock of the baseline scenarios, critically assessed the thematic areas covering existing institutional frameworks, capacities, current regulatory regimes and knowledge repositories, and analysed the gaps in them that hinder better linkages between poverty eradication and better access to energy services.



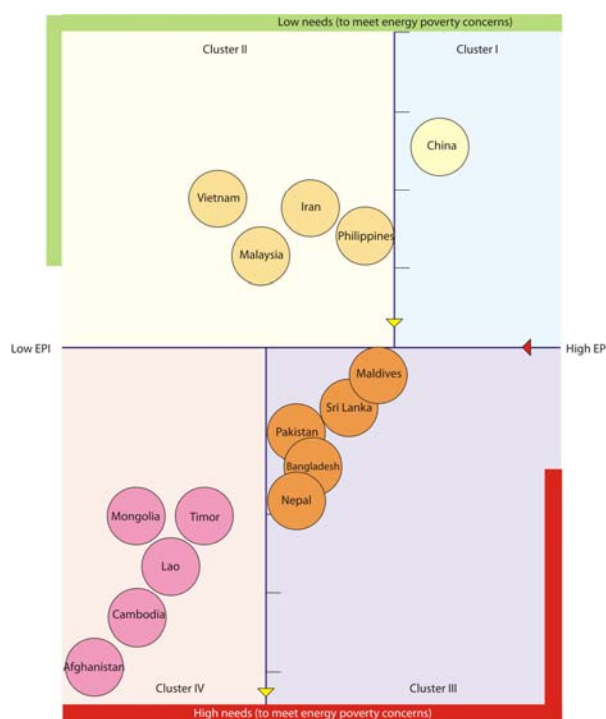
Rapid Assessment and Gap Analysis Findings

The preliminary findings of these studies will assist in identifying country specific as well as regional interventions that mitigate the energy-poverty gaps and take forward the agenda of meeting the MDGs through energy access for the masses. For this purpose a detailed matrix was developed to group the countries according to the need for access to modern energy services and the extent of linkages of energy with the development process.

In order to systematically analyse the findings of the rapid assessment, which were presented in the form of country reports, a collation of three parameters, namely (a) the Human Development Index of the country, (b) the incidence of poverty in the country (the ratio of population living below the poverty line) and (c) the access to energy (the ratio of population

with access to electricity) was undertaken across all the selected countries. Since over the years, the definitions of poverty have largely shifted to emphasizing the deprivation aspects of poverty, wherein there is focus on human development, the above parameters were assigned a weightage of 0.5, 0.2 and 0.3, respectively, for calculating an energy-poverty index. According to the energy needs and energy-poverty index the countries were grouped into five clusters, which were ranked according to the average EPI (see figure 1).

On the basis of the matrix the countries were grouped into five clusters. Cluster I with low needs and high HDI has only China, while Cluster II with less developed energy sector and relatively less robust energy-poverty linkages includes Viet Nam, Iran, Malaysia and Philippines. Cluster III comprises Sri Lanka, Maldives, Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan wherein the needs related to development of the energy-poverty linkages in general and the energy sector in particular were higher than Cluster II countries.



The state of energy as well as the development levels was found to be the lowest in case of Cluster IV countries comprising Afghanistan, Lao PDR, Cambodia, Timor-Leste and Mongolia (Figure 1). The Pacific Island Countries with equally poor level of development and poor modern energy provision were grouped together in Cluster V, which is outside this quadrant. The country reports and the synthesis

document will feed into the action plan for taking activities forward under REP-PoR.

Countries covered

Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Iran, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste, Viet Nam, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshal Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Cook Island, Tokelau, Nieu and Vanuatu.

Regional Energy Programme for Poverty Reduction (REP-PoR)

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