

Governance & Energy



Brief Context

- 1.7 billion people lack access to electricity & 2 billion lack access to safe, clean cooking fuels (Asia and SSA)
- Poor may not use term 'energy' but expend a lot of 'it' obtaining 'it', plus spend a lot more of their income on securing energy sources
- Corruption and inefficiency mean the poor pay more per unit than the rich
- Poor face trade-offs; cutting down trees for fuel knowing it has environmental consequences (lack of choices)
- The problem or solution is rarely technological; rather it is about reforming/understanding political, institutional, and social contexts



UNDP Governance Service Lines

- Parliamentary Development
- Electoral Reform
- Judicial Reform, Human Rights and Access to Justice
- Access to Information
- Decentralization, Local Governance & Urban Development
- Public Admin Reform and Anti-Corruption



Justice & Human Rights

- A normative framework: Should a “Right To Energy” be a human right? Right to Food, Right to Water are human rights; so why not A2E?
- Energy programmes/projects/policies should be infused, underpinned by rights-based principles: inclusion, participation, responsibilities and obligations, access to remedies, airing of grievances
- Rights of communities to resources on their lands; sub-surface issues; particularly relevant for indigenous peoples rights; ILO Convention 169
- Issues of Legal status: stateless, migrants (rural-urban) e.g. often not ‘recognized’, thus not entitled legally to grid access; this has the perverse effects of the unregistered having to break the law and thus face prosecution



Decentralization/LG

- It is at the local level where right-based principles can perhaps be best applied/pilot-tested
- Participatory planning and communication of specific needs: community decision making on the use of energy: schools, hospitals, space heating, lighting etc.
- Holding elected officials and administrators accountable for actions/policies/funds
- Local level Pilot programmes can remove barriers to distribution by increasing local experience and knowledge on energy demand and use---this can decrease price distortion and the need for intermediaries



Corruption

- Corruption is the main component of poor governance in energy sector: raises transaction costs and distorts market prices
- TI Bribe Payers Index 2002: Power Sector ranked 5th out of 17 sectors most prone to corruption
- The poor usually pay the price: getting access to grids, often entail bribes
- Accountable local government and reduction of corruption go hand in hand.
- Establishment of users and producers associations can help better contribute to price stabilization and equitable energy distribution (business incentives to root out corruption)
- Creation of ombudsman office locally which could document complaints from local people on energy resources/public fund diversion could also be considered
- Remove the politicization of the energy sector; where special interest groups are given preferences



Parliamentarians

- Debate/discuss renewable energy systems, costs, and benefits of action
- Sign/ratify energy related international conventions; integrate provisions of such into national legislation as needed: parliamentarians to be part of negotiating delegations
- Set standards: e.g which industrial units must meet to undertake production
- Learn lessons from other countries
- Inter-action is needed between different sub-committees of parliament
- Encourage implementation of existing laws; utilize its oversight function better to understand energy policy and costs, budgetary decisions



Conclusions

- Treat energy policy as holistic development policy and not sectorally: don't projectize: Complex linkages between energy, water, health, education, agricultural, employment sectors and others
- Promote a human rights framework for Access to Energy (A2E)
- For UNDP: better programmatic linkages between Governance SL's and Energy SLs
- Integration of macro-micro linkages in policy making
- Review, revise, enact policy and legislation to improve legal access to energy services for the poor
- Infuse local government with local, people centered energy planning, putting in instruments to hold officials accountable for their actions
- Enhance access to information; and build local capacity to manage energy systems and processes
- Greater civil society involvement with A2E causes
- More pilot projects on rights-based approaches to energy services

