The Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) initiative, launched in 2011 by the UN Secretary General, aims to help achieve three goals by 2030: (i) universal access to modern energy services; (ii) doubling of the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix; and (iii) doubling the rate of improvement in energy efficiency. The initiative will help catalyze major new investment programs to accelerate the transformation of the global energy system.

As part of its strategic work program, SE4ALL has established a number of regional and thematic hubs within its overall institutional framework. The World Bank—through the Energy Sector Management Assistance Program (ESMAP) and the Energy and Extractives Global Practice—hosts the SE4ALL’s Global Knowledge Hub, which will facilitate the creation, enhancement, and exchange of knowledge for the overall initiative.

Four specific, but complementary initiatives are being implemented under the Knowledge Hub: the Global Tracking Framework (GTF) for the SE4ALL goals; Multi-tier Definition and Measurement of Energy Access; Readiness for Investment in Sustainable Energy (RISE); and the global State of the Energy Access Report (SEAR). Work under the Knowledge Hub will focus on two areas: (i) research that supports implementation of SE4ALL initiatives through frameworks that track and monitor progress and provide feedback; and (ii) knowledge management work that collects information and data around key policy experiences and cases, and makes it readily accessible to policy- and decision-makers.

GLOBAL TRACKING FRAMEWORK

The World Bank/ESMAP and the International Energy Agency led a consortium of 15 international agencies to establish the SE4ALL Global Tracking Framework, which provides a system for regular global reporting of the three SE4ALL goals, based on rigorous yet practical measures. The first Global Tracking Framework report was released in May 2013 and established progress towards the three goals for 212 countries at the global and regional levels, with 2010 as the base year. The GTF provides a comprehensive portrait of energy sector developments under the SE4ALL pillars. The second edition of the Global Tracking Framework is scheduled to be released in May 2015, with further editions every two years.
MULTI-TIER DEFINITION AND MEASUREMENT OF ENERGY ACCESS

The multi-tier definition and measurement of energy access is an innovative approach that goes beyond the traditional binary measures of access. This approach defines energy access as the ability to access energy that is adequate, available when needed, reliable, good quality, affordable, legal, convenient, healthy, and safe across household, productive, and community uses. It evaluates energy access tiers through the combination of the abovementioned characteristics of the energy supply. The approach is technology neutral and treats all energy sources fairly, based on the performance of the energy supplied. Indices of energy access can be calculated to reflect both the extent and intensity of access to electricity, as well as cooking and heating, and allow comparison across geographical areas and over time. The ability to assess the level of energy access in a selected area—looking at all aspects of the energy supply—is important both at the initial stage of investment planning, and later, for monitoring and evaluation.

Under a follow-on activity, "Piloting Multi-tier Approaches to Measure Energy Access," ESMAP offers technical assistance to countries interested in performing energy access assessments. The objective is to inform and, ultimately, expand their access strategies and programs. Support is provided for the implementation of household energy surveys by offering standardized questionnaires and assistance with survey administration. ESMAP also helps to produce the diagnostic reports of the energy situation of selected areas, which highlights deficiencies and identifies improvement opportunities.

READINESS FOR INVESTMENT IN SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

The Readiness for Investment in Sustainable Energy (RISE) initiative provides indicators—covering planning, policies, pricing and subsidies, and procedural efficiency—that compare the investment climate for sustainable energy across countries. It acts as a global reference to identify what institutional, regulatory, and legislative systems are relevant to support investments in the three focus areas of SE4All: access, efficiency, and renewables. Eventually, it will benchmark investment performance to track progress and measure changes over time. RISE is currently being piloted in 17 countries—Armenia, Chile, Denmark, Ethiopia, Honduras, India, Kenya, Liberia, Maldives, Mali, Mongolia, Nepal, Solomon Islands, Tanzania, United States, Vanuatu, and Yemen. The results will be published by November 2014.

STATE OF ENERGY ACCESS REPORT

Complementing the Global Tracking Framework, the Knowledge Hub will develop a periodical publication on the global state of energy access. This report will provide a comprehensive and detailed review of the current status and emerging trends in energy access, along with a review of best practices. The Global State of Energy Access Report will provide qualitative analysis, complementing the data-driven analysis in the Global Tracking Framework and the RISE indices. An important element of this report will be to capture actual impacts of energy access programs—for example, on poverty, income, health, infrastructure, and social services—through specific case studies. The first edition of the report is expected to be released in early 2016.