

SHINING A LIGHT ON WOMEN

Results from the Power to the Poor Rural Electrification Pilot in Lao PDR

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Outline

- Context - Rural Electrification In Laos
- Power to the Poor (P2P) Pilot
- P2P - Gender Sensitive Approach
- P2P - Roll-out & scale-up

Two Development Stories from Lao PDR

1. Strong economic growth and rapid regional integration

- Population: 6.2 million, about 1.0 million households
- GDP: \$5.2 billion, above 6% p.a. since 2000
- Poverty incidence: 40% below \$1.25/day in 2008
- Regional integration: power trade, Mekong water resource management, highway connection

2. But uneven distribution of growth

- Large urban-rural disparities
- Gender disparities, particularly in remote areas and among ethnic groups:
 - Maternal mortality 405:100,000
 - Female literacy rate: 61% (vs. male: 77%)
 - Gender Development Ranking: 130 (out of 177)

Rural Electrification in Laos

Sector Objectives:

Provide **affordable**, **reliable**, and **sustainable** electricity service to support poverty alleviation and economic growth

Sector Priorities:

Expansion of
Access

Hydropower
Development

Sector Financial
Sustainability

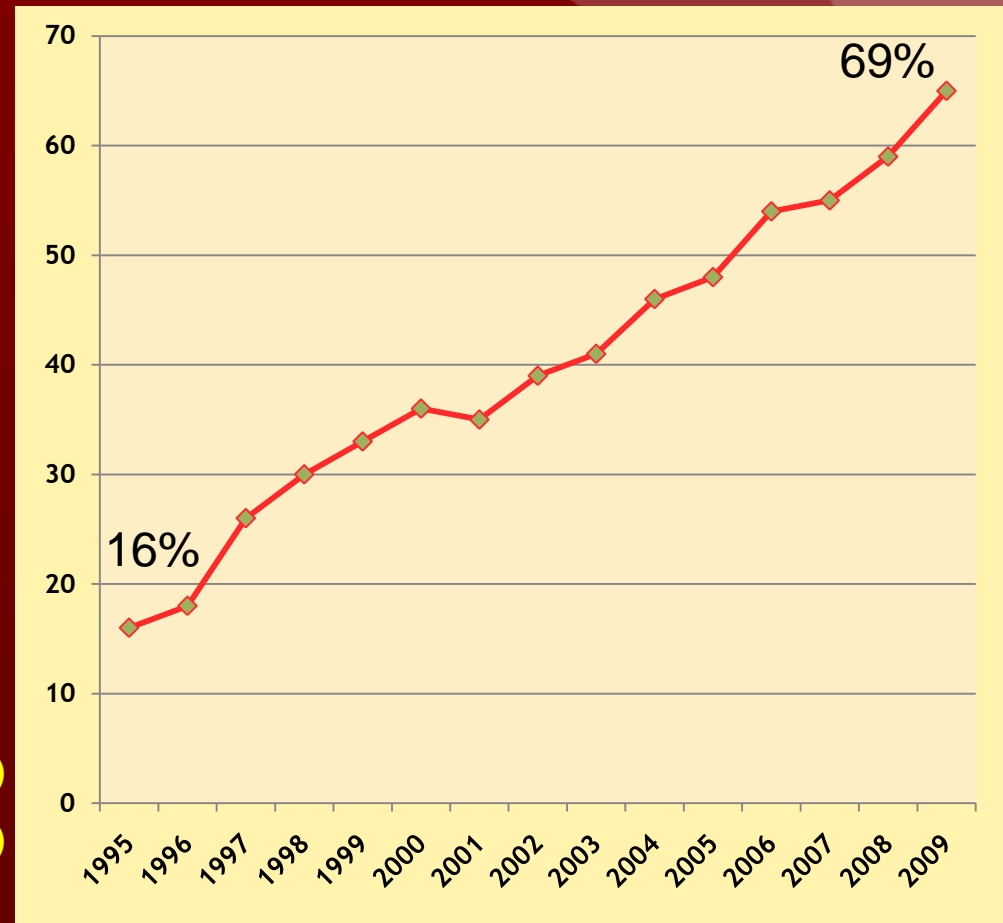
Rural Electrification in Laos

Progress:

- 16% in 1995
- 65% in 2009

Bank contribution:

- 15% & capacity building
 1. SPE (1987-1993)
 2. PGI (1993 - 1998)
 3. SPRE (1998 - 2004)
 4. REP 1 (APL, 2005 - 2012)
 5. REP 2 (APL, 2010 - 2014)



Rural Electrification in Laos

- **Key issue:** in village electrified, **20-40%** of HH not connected to the grid because they can't afford the connection charges (**\$80-100**), 2004 Survey
- Who are the they?



Households below
the poverty line



Female-headed
Households

Rural Electrification in Laos

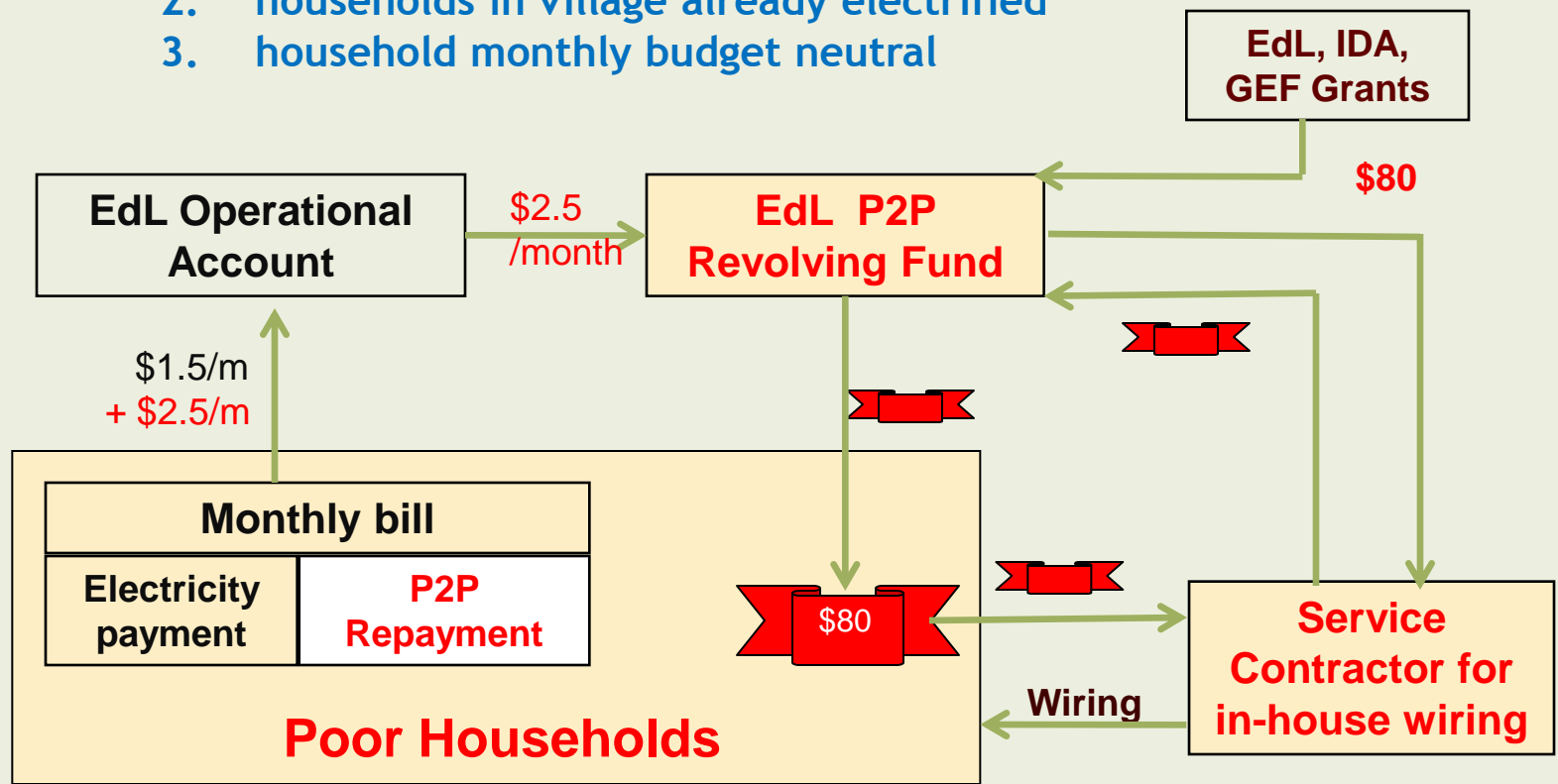
Focuses on development impact

- Maximize social economic impacts - **Village Screening**
- Benefits to the poor - **Power to the Poor**, targeting the 20-40% households not connected to the grid in villages already electrified
- Sector financial sustainability – EdL reported **profits** in 2007, 2008 and 2009
- Capacity building – very **effective project implementation**, for both on- and off-grid rural electrification

Power to the Poor (P2P) Pilot

Targeting the poor

1. interest-free credit
2. households in village already electrified
3. household monthly budget neutral



Power to the Poor (P2P) Pilot

- **Example: Phosaad Village**
 - Grid to village in 2002
 - 270 households
 - 63 (23%) not connected by 2008
 - All connected in 02/09 - P2P

Gender Sensitive Approach - Why ?

Key Gender Issues

The majority of female headed households are poorer than average and as a result have few (if any) available resources to pay the connection fee. Without support they are unlikely to be able to access electricity when the opportunity comes.

Yet, the benefits of improved access to electricity particularly to women are significant, in terms of:

- Reduction in tedious tasks such as water
- Evening activities made possible
- Flexibility in organizing household activities
- Income-generating potential
- Greater security



Gender Sensitive Approach - Why ?

2007 Survey: female-headed households are poorer on average

- 8% of households but 43% of “poor households”

Description	Province				Average (%)
	Savannakhet	Champasack	Sekong	Attapue	
(%) of Poor household as of total household	12.02	7.03	19.66	31.36	17.52
(%) of women headed household as of total household	6.65	8.03	8.55	8.52	7.94
(%) of poor women headed household as of total household	5.63	4.45	7.06	8.52	6.42
(%) of poor women headed household as of total women headed household	84.62	55.36	82.50	100.00	80.62
(%) of poor women headed household as of total poor household	46.81	63.27	35.87	27.17	43.28

Gender Sensitive Approach - How ?

- Process of implementation



Gender Sensitive Approach - How ?

Gender Sensitive Eligibility Criteria & outreach materials

Eligibility criteria: Power to the Poor pilot will target villages that are already electrified

- Among non-electrified households, **all female headed-** and single parent households will be **automatically eligible** for support
- For other households poverty criteria applies
- A household is eligible for support if it has housing that is safe to electrify **AND** meets at least **ONE** of the poverty criteria **OR** is female / single parent headed **AND** safe to electrify

Information materials: All information and dissemination materials for the pilot has been done in a gender sensitive fashion, such as:

- Highlighting the benefits of electricity for women
- Making the consultative process gender inclusive, by for example scheduling meetings at times when women are available

Outreach materials

ມາດຕະຖານຂອງຜູ້ທີ່ມີສິດໄດ້ຮັບເລືອກ

The eligibility criteria

ໂຄງສ້າງຂອງເຮືອນ ຕ້ອງໝັ້ນຄົງ, ປອດໄພຕໍ່ໄມ້ຟ້າ ແລະ ...
Physical household structure must be permanent, safe to electricity and no more than 30mm from a power line

... ຕໍ່ໜ້າ 30 ມິຕິ
ຈາກໄມ້ຟ້າ

3 ບັນດາຄອບຄົວທີ່ຈຳນວນຂອງສາມາດຈ່າຍເງິນຄືນໃຫ້ ບໍ່ແມ່ນ 20.000 ກີບ ຕໍ່ເດືອນ
Households must be able to demonstrate ability to repay loan of 20,000 kip per month

2 ຈຳນວນໄດ້ຄຳເຖິງຄວາມຍາກຈົນ ຂອງຄອບຄົວ
Household must be considered poor

ຜົນປະໂຫຍດຂອງການໃຊ້ໄມ້ຟ້າຢູ່ບ້ານ

Benefits of electrification in homes

ຄຸນປະໂຫຍດດົນໄລຍະຍາວ
Long-term savings

ປັບປຸງຄວາມນາໜິດໃຫ້ດີຂຶ້ນ
Improved quality of life

ສາມາດເຮັດວຽກເຮືອນ, ລຽນຫຼືສິດ້ອຍເກາະກຸ່ມ
Ability to do housework, homework at night

ຮູ້ໄດ້ສຳລະບັນເທີງແລະ ຄົ້ນຄວ້າຂ່າວສານຕ່າງໆ
Entertainment and information

ມີຄວາມນັ່ນໄປໄດ້ໃນການຮ່ວມຮ່າງລາຍຮັບແກ່ຄອບຄົວ
Possibilities for income generation

ການໃຊ້ໄມ້ຟ້າຢ່າງປອດໄພ

Electricity safety issues

2 ຫ້າມອັດຕັດຕຽນ ຢ່າງ ໃຫ້ເຂົ້າໄມ້ຟ້າ ຫຼື ຜູ້ອື່ນ ຈຳນວນຕ່າງໆ ຈຳນວນຕ່າງໆ ຈຳນວນຕ່າງໆ
Do not put any wet materials or glass of water on the electrical appliances

3 ບິໄນເຂົ້າໄມ້ຟ້າ ຫຼື ຜູ້ອື່ນ ຈຳນວນຕ່າງໆ
Do not put electrical appliances into the water

4 ໃນກໍລະນີທີ່ມີນ້ຳຖ້ວມ ຕ້ອງປິດສະວັດຫຼັກໄມ້ຟ້າ
In case of flooding, switch off the main black switch box

5 ຕ້ອງອອກຫຼັກສະວັດອອກຈາກເຂົ້າໄມ້ຟ້າ ໃນກໍລະນີ ສິ່ນໄມ້ຟ້າ ໃຫ້ເຮັດ
Unplug the electricity cords before leaving the house and when not using

ການອະທິບາຍໂຄງການ

POWER TO THE POOR
Project explanation

2 ຈັດຕັ້ງຄວາມໝັ້ນຄົງຄອບຄົວບ້ານ
ໂດຍການ ຄວາມປະສານງານ, ສະໜັບສະໜູນ, ຈຳນວນຕ່າງໆ ຈຳນວນຕ່າງໆ ຈຳນວນຕ່າງໆ
ຈັດຕັ້ງຄວາມໝັ້ນຄົງຄອບຄົວບ້ານ ແລະ ຈັດຕັ້ງຄວາມໝັ້ນຄົງຄອບຄົວບ້ານ ແລະ ຈັດຕັ້ງຄວາມໝັ້ນຄົງຄອບຄົວບ້ານ
Target households identified by village chief, village committees, LWI
ECL and ECI confirm household eligibility

3 ການ ຈັດຕັ້ງຄວາມໝັ້ນຄົງຄອບຄົວບ້ານ
ECL provides a voucher for the cost of wiring the household
ຜ່ານ ຈຳນວນຕ່າງໆ ຈຳນວນຕ່າງໆ ຈຳນວນຕ່າງໆ
ECL provides a loan of 700,000 kip
ຄອບຄົວແລະຈັດຕັ້ງຄວາມໝັ້ນຄົງຄອບຄົວບ້ານ
700,000 ຊິບ ຕາມສົນທິສັນຍາ ຈຳນວນຕ່າງໆ ຈຳນວນຕ່າງໆ ຈຳນວນຕ່າງໆ
Household and ECL sign contract; the household agreeing to pay the difference between the 700,000 kip loan and the ECI quote

4 ຈັດຕັ້ງຄວາມໝັ້ນຄົງຄອບຄົວບ້ານ ແລະ ຈັດຕັ້ງຄວາມໝັ້ນຄົງຄອບຄົວບ້ານ
ECL wires household

5 ການຈ່າຍເງິນຄືນ ຄືນປະຈຳເດືອນ
ຄວນສົ່ງຄຳໄມ້ຟ້າຄືນ
Repayment of loan with monthly bill

Gender Sensitive Approach - Results

Conclusions of a rapid assessment of P2P Pilot in May 2009

- 537 newly electrified households of which 68 were female-headed
- An overall increase in the connection rate from 78% to 95%
- Among female headed households the connection rate increased even more, from 63% to 90%
- P2P is very cost effective: the marginal cost to provide access to electricity was about \$80 per household with the P2P compared to about \$900-\$1,000 per household with grid extension projects
- GAP funded the P2P design, IDA/GEF funded the implementation under the REP 1

Gender Sensitive Approach - Lessons

- **There are several entry points to addressing gender issues in energy projects**
- **Addressing gender issues requires a slightly different focus and approach - but it is not “rocket science”**
- **Commitment from the WB team and counterparts to “go the extra mile” is essential**
- **Additional resources are needed, but a small amount of money can go a long way - GAP funds played a catalytic role**
- **In the end, addressing gender issues constitutes a smart way of making a project more effective and its impact more inclusive.**

P2P: Roll-out & Scale-up

Roll-out

- 03-10/2009: to 3 Provinces Khammouane, Savannakhet, Champasak
- Progress: the house wiring completed on **2629 households** (out of 2806 eligible hholds) in 132 villages.
- Access rate: **80.91%** before and **97.38%** after P2P

Scale-up under the APL program

- Replication in all southern provinces
- Replication in all northern provinces
- Targeting all households not connected to the grid in all villages electrified

P2P: Roll-out & scale-up

Donor Response and Resources

- **IDA:** \$600,000, under **REP 2**
- **AusAID:** \$600,000, as additional financing to **REP 1**
- **NORAD:** \$100,000, as co-financing to **REP 2** for training of EdL's provincial P2P teams
- **GPOBA:** proposal under preparation
- **ADB:** intends to replicate the P2P under its RE programs

Productive Use of Electricity

- **ESMAP:** US\$500,000, as co-financing to **REP 2**
 - SME for decentralized energy service program (2007-2008) under **REP 1**
 - combination of **gender actions** & productive use of electricity under **REP 2**

THANK YOU!



P2P implementers and program participants posing for a photo at the end of the day in Kenghuakhong village