

# ENERGY ACCESS



Supporting Access to Modern,  
Sustainable Energy Services

## A GLOBAL CHALLENGE

Energy poverty continues to pose a global development challenge. Around the world, 1.4 billion people lack access to electricity, and over 2.9 billion people continue to rely on traditional biomass fuels for their cooking and heating needs. For people in these communities, the absence of affordable, reliable energy has significant consequences for human health, welfare, and economic development.

Women and girls are particularly affected, as they are usually responsible for collecting firewood and cooking; smoke inhalation from using traditional stoves and open fires is a major cause of respiratory diseases. The World Health Organization estimates 1.9 million deaths annually are directly linked to indoor air pollution.

Given the scope of the challenge, energy access is gaining high-level attention, nationally and internationally. Countries around the world have recognized that expanding access to modern, reliable and sustainable energy services is essential to meeting national development goals. This, together with reductions in the cost of technologies and the emergence of innovative business models, provides a new opportunity to address energy poverty.

### **ESMAP—A Partner for Sustainable Energy Solutions**

For almost 30 years, the Energy Sector Management Assistance Program (ESMAP) has helped client countries develop solutions to the energy access challenge. This assistance has included support for rural electrification projects and household energy interventions, including wood-fuel management, improved cookstoves, and promotion of clean fuels.



### **ESMAP**

The Energy Sector Management Assistance Program, a global knowledge and technical assistance program administered by the World Bank, supports low- and middle-income countries to achieve environmentally sustainable energy solutions for poverty reduction and economic growth.

## OUR APPROACH

ESMAP supports research and analysis that help guide national policy makers in decisions about how best to fight energy poverty. Working with the World Bank's regional operations units, ESMAP helps scale up financing and contributes to the development of country strategies.

ESMAP's approach integrates work on energy access with other policy objectives, including rural economic development, slum rehabilitation, reducing deforestation, and achieving low carbon development. As women and girls are disproportionately impacted by a lack of access to energy services, ESMAP addresses gender issues across all its work on energy poverty.

ESMAP has developed a partnership with the Global Alliance on Clean Cookstoves, which has a goal of disseminating 100 million improved cookstoves by 2020. ESMAP is also working with UN agencies and other organizations to achieve a global commitment to achieving Sustainable Energy for All at the UN Conference on Sustainable Development in June 2012 (Rio+20).



**“We need to be bold. Look at the scale of the problem—1.4 million people who still live in darkness after sunset, and 3 billion who burn wood, dung or coal to heat their homes or cook their meals. Energy poverty cripples development prospects. It undermines life itself.”**

Sri Mulyani Indrawati, World Bank Managing Director  
speaking at the Energy for All Conference | Oslo, October 2011

## OUR SERVICES

ESMAP's energy access work comprises three mutually supporting areas of activity: analytical work, knowledge management, and operational support.

- \* **Analytical Work** | ESMAP, working with other organizations, is developing improved indicators to monitor and evaluate national progress on energy access to help guide policy choices. Improved indicators are also important for the introduction of results-based approaches—for example, linking scaled-up donor finance to measurable progress in reducing energy poverty. ESMAP has initiated research on developing an analytical framework to help policy makers assess the economic costs and benefits of household energy supply chains.
- \* **Knowledge Clearinghouse** | With urbanization accelerating in developing countries, ESMAP is engaging practitioners in identifying priority actions to enhance energy access for the poor in urban and peri-urban areas. ESMAP is contributing to the sector-wide roadmap of the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves, to inform donors and policy makers about the resources needed to bring about wide-scale adoption of improved cookstoves.
- \* **Operational Leveraging** | ESMAP's partnership with the World Bank's Global Partnership on Output-Based Aid (GPOBA) and the Public-Private Infrastructure Advisory Facility (PPIAF) promotes projects for the use of output-based funding and other forms of innovative financing in Africa, through the enhancement of private sector engagement. In Sub-Saharan Africa, Central America, and South Asia, ESMAP is also promoting clean cooking fuels and stoves with market research and development activities. ESMAP is also working with the Climate Investment Funds (CIF) and the Energy+ partnership, a global initiative aligned with the UN effort to promote energy access, to pilot innovations in results-based approaches for improving energy access and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.



## ESMAP ACCOMPLISHMENTS | Energy Access, 2007-11

- \* Over 500,000 households provided with modern lighting through *Lighting Africa*, a regional program supported by ESMAP and others, which aims to reach 250 million people by 2030
- \* US\$ 1.75 billion mobilized for expanded electricity access in Kenya and Rwanda as a result of the ESMAP-supported *Electricity Access Scale-up and Sector Wide Approach Development* program
- \* Supported pilot initiatives in 12 countries to assist small- and medium-sized enterprises acting as energy service providers using renewable energy technologies
- \* Gender-sensitive approaches that are practical, operational, and focused on results integrated into World Bank-financed energy projects in Mali, Kenya, Senegal, and Tanzania
- \* Supported the *Africa Electrification Initiative* as a forum for 130 representatives from African ministries of energy, utilities, regulatory entities, rural electrification agencies, research centers, and nongovernmental organizations to pool together collective expertise and share practical information on ground-level implementation issues relating to rural, peri-urban, and urban electrification



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**For more information on ESMAP's Energy Access work,  
please contact us at [esmap@worldbank.org](mailto:esmap@worldbank.org) or visit us at  
[www.esmap.org/esmap/Energy\\_Access](http://www.esmap.org/esmap/Energy_Access)**



Energy Sector Management Assistance Program  
The World Bank  
1818 H Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20433 USA  
[www.esmap.org](http://www.esmap.org)