



Delivering Energy Services for Poverty Reduction:

Success Stories from Asia and the Pacific

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Regional Energy Programme for Poverty Reduction
UNDP Regional Centre in Bangkok

Foreword

The Asia-Pacific region faces tremendous inequalities in the use of modern forms of energy. Inadequate access to energy services has entrenched poverty, slowed down improvements in health and education, exacerbated inequities and contributed to environmental degradation.

Cost-effective solutions exist that provide clean, efficient and affordable energy services to the region's poor and remote communities. Yet these solutions have not received the political and financial support they deserve.

Developing countries in Asia-Pacific stand at a crossroads. If they make the right choices today they can invest in energy options that will improve economic opportunities for the poor while limiting negative impacts on the environment.

UNDP's efforts in implementing energy projects in Asia-Pacific have generated a wealth of experiences in expanding energy services in the region. A selection of these projects, all of which have had positive impact on people's lives, are documented and presented in this report.

This report outlines experiences from UNDP and its partners in designing and implementing energy projects. It provides evidence to support the case that improved access to energy services supports poverty alleviation and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

We hope that these experiences, and the lessons that have emerged from them, will be useful in informing future energy interventions in Asia-Pacific that reduce poverty and generate sustainable development.



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Acknowledgements

This report represents years and in some cases more than a decade of experiences in learning by doing in countries from the Asia-Pacific region. The report benefited from the valuable contributions and collaborative efforts of many people, including staff working on sustainable energy in the UNDP Regional Centre for Asia Pacific and in UNDP Country Offices.

This is an initiative under the Regional Energy Programme for Poverty Reduction (REP-PoR) based in UNDP's Regional Centre in Bangkok. The programme seeks to enhance knowledge sharing in the region on experiences gained from initiatives promoting energy as a tool for poverty reduction and sustainable development. REP-PoR focuses on enhancing equitable access to appropriate, reliable and affordable energy services to reduce human and income poverty. In line with UNDP's overarching goals in supporting countries in their efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), it contributes towards their achievement through broad-based interventions in three thematic areas: improved access to energy services for the poor and unserved, efficient use of energy focusing on micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprise, and access to financing for sustainable energy. In order to mainstream energy into the poverty reduction agenda, the regional energy programme provides three strategic services: support for policy advocacy, capacity development, and action research and knowledge management.

This publication was designed, reviewed and revised by the REP-PoR team, which is led by Nandita Mongia and includes Thiyagarajan Velumail, Sooksiri Chamsuk and Thomas Lyng Jensen. We appreciate the substantive contributions from Rebecca Roberts and Sanna Salmela-Eckstein. We would like to recognise the efforts of Ines Havet, who was responsible for synthesising and analysing key findings and recommendations. The collective input of all team members in sharing their experiences and providing guidance has gone a long way in the finalisation of this report.

The final report is the product of a collaborative effort between the REP-PoR team members who initiated and coordinated the report and the UNDP Country Offices in the Asia-Pacific region. We would like to thank all those who contributed to sharing their country case studies: Lukas Adhyakso, Hudha Ahmed, Arif Alauddin, Sunil Arora, Darshani Desilva, Shakil Ahmed Ferdausi, Tek Gurung, Le Van Hung, Thomas Lynge Jensen, Asfaazam Kasbani, Lay Khim, Tran Minh Khoa, Massood Lohar, Avi Mahaningtyas, Erik Middlelink, Olin Monteiro, K.S. Murali, Navirak Ngin, Sirixai Phanthavongs, He Ping, Anura Premathilake, Shireen Kamal Sayeed, Budhi Sayoko, Kiran Singh, Vijaya Singh, Preeti Soni, Ashfaqee Soomro, Chum Sovanny, Poonsin Srisangkom, M. H. Swaminath, Doley Tshering, Tungalag Ulambayar, Lisa Vaai, Kati Veijonen, William L. Wallace, Phansiri Winichagoon and Shen Yiyang.

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