



# *Sustainable Energy Access as a Mean for Social Inclusion in Rural Areas*

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Access to sustainable energy is fundamental to achieving development goals such as **poverty reduction**; improved health; increased productivity and economic growth.

*(SEA for All, A Global Action Agenda 2012)*



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# Social Inclusion in rural areas



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The concept of **social inclusion** represents a vision for “a society for all”, in which every individual, each with rights and responsibilities, has an active role to play

*(Report of the World Summit for Social Development, 1995).*



## Social inclusion in rural areas...what does it mean

- (i) Capacity development and structural inclusion of disadvantaged groups such as women, youth and indigenous populations.
- (ii) Access to basic services, particularly health and education
- (iii) Deployment of adaptation and mitigation measures that promote the inclusion of groups vulnerable to climate change
- (iv) Distributing costs and benefits throughout the agricultural value chain, providing the local population with adequate working conditions
- (v) Ensuring that people are able to exercise their rights of land ownership and use.
- (vi) Access to energy



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# Energy Access: figures and challenges



## Energy access: Snapshot

- ✓ 1.7 billion people without electricity
- ✓ 2.4 billion people who rely on traditional biomass for cooking and heating (50% of rural households)
- ✓ An additional billion are “under-electrified”—meaning they have nominal grid access, but suffer regular blackouts
- ✓ 1 billion people still without access to electricity in 2030

(IEA Energy Access Database)





## Energy access Challenges: Gender dimension

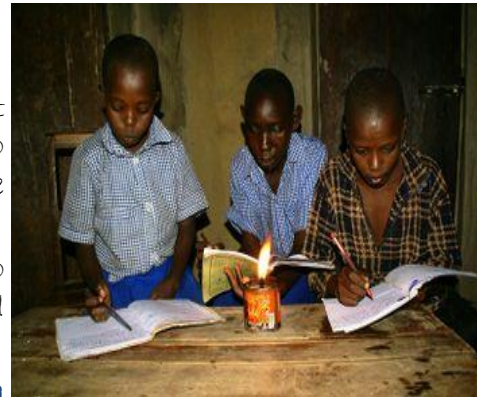
- ✓ Lack of access to energy affects badly women in rural area.
- ✓ Exposed to very high levels of indoor air pollution
- ✓ Devote 25 percent or more of total domestic labor to collecting wood
- ✓ Young girls kept away from school and study, and from business and educational opportunities
- ✓ Decreased opportunities for women to advance socially and economically





## Energy Access Challenges: Unequal education

- ✓ Absence of power means that schools cannot use the computer technologies central to modern education. This creates a vicious cycle where the best **teachers tend to leave**
- ✓ Children in communities lacking access to energy **underperform** in schools, **drop out** and ultimately remain unemployed.
- ✓ This is the energy dimension of the “**poverty trap.**”





# Renewable energies for social inclusion



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Sustainable and Renewable energies  
have the potential to improve Social  
Inclusion...let's see how



Renewable energies liberate women from the drudgery of survival activities permitting them to engage in other productive, educational or social activities.





Renewable energies  
improve profitability  
and safety in energy-  
intensive  
microenterprises and  
save labor.





Renewable energies  
open up the time  
and space to pursue  
opportunities for  
education





Renewable energies address labor-saving and human energy needs, such as drinking water pumping, food processing and grain grinding, and transport







Sustainable, clean,  
safe energy sources  
can help the poor  
break out of the trap  
and reduce  
inequalities within  
communities.





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# 2030 Agenda and Policies



## 2030 Agenda and policy actions

- ✓ Development will not be sustainable unless it is **inclusive**.
- ✓ The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development thus needs to be an **inclusive plan of action**
- ✓ Sustainable energies and social inclusion strictly **connected**
- ✓ Public policies in the form of enhancement of productive capacities, improved **access to quality social services**, adequate **social protection** and **decent work** can be linked to sustainable energy access
- ✓ The full potential of social protection programmes to deliver access to energy has yet to be **explored** and **might benefit from...**



## Policy integration

- ✓ For energy access to be integrated into social protection programmes, high level **political commitment** is required
- ✓ Secure **inter-ministry** cooperation and coordination
- ✓ Use the experience of existing multi-component social protection programmes, **energy access programmes** and **public works programmes** as a basis for exploring policy synergies.
- ✓ Explore how social protection and energy access policies can be integrated into **Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs)**



## Develop innovative and accessible financing mechanisms

- ✓ Develop **new funding mechanisms** such as cost blending that can be used to fund renewable energy and social protection programmes
- ✓ Explore how to **leverage carbon finance** for scaling up energy access in social protection programmes
- ✓ Ensure a **climate justice approach** informs discussions on the Green Climate Fund.



## Develop a multi-stakeholder model

- ✓ Poor people must be recognised as **key actors** in their right to development rather than passive recipients of services.
- ✓ Examine incentives that encourage poor people to consider the **benefits of renewable energy**
- ✓ Examine ways to incorporate employment, specifically **public works programmes**, into energy access initiatives.



## Social Protection and Access to Energy: where did it work...

### Oportunidades programme (Ministry for Social Development, Mexico)

- ✓ Responded to increasing fossil fuel prices in 2007 by incorporating an additional cash transfer for household energy expenses.
- ✓ 5.8 million families benefited under the scheme and the programme reached 25 per cent of the country's poorest.
- ✓ Investment in sustainable energy forms including ecological cookstoves which, by the end of 2012, will have been introduced in over half a million Mexican homes over a six-year period.



Thank you and leave no one  
behind

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