

Increasing Access to Energy Services for Rural Areas in Order to Achieve the MDGs in West Africa

By

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Background

Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)

- 15-Nation regional body
- Total Population of 262 million people
- 40% of total population live in sub-Saharan Africa
- 13 of the 15 nations categorized as least developed countries (LDCs)



Poverty Dimension

In Year 2000, 100 million people or 44% of total population were classified as poor:

- Poverty indices increasing due to low economic growth per capita, 0.9% from 1999-2000
- Large disparity in income distribution
- Poverty is pronounced in the rural arrears



Energy Poverty Dimension

- Lowest level of energy consumption in the world
- ECOWAS countries consume 88 *kwh* of electricity per/year compared with 350 *kwh* in East Asia
- Low levels of consumption is compounded by the inefficient modes of consumption and production:
 - In order to generate one unit of national wealth` (\$1000 at 1995 constant dollar) West African Countries on the average require four times amount of energy compared to that of OECD countries(0.787 TOE versus 0.19 TOE)



Big Challenges Ahead

- How to increase electricity access rates in the rural arrears.
 - Grid expansion
 - Non-grid solution
- How to increase access to modern fuels for motive power in the rural arrears
 - No real economic activity can progress without access to mechanical and electrical motive power
- How to increase access to modern cooking and other domestic fuels



Need For Regional Approach

- There are common energy challenges in the West African sub-region.
- Most of the national energy markets on their own are often too small to sustain sustainable and profitable investments
- There is a need for general economic integration amongst the countries in the sub-region.



ECOWAS Response

ECOWAS has launched an ambitious regional programme for Energy Access for its rural and sub-urban population with the following targets:

- 100% access to improved cooking/domestic energy services by 2015
- 60% access for rural communities to boost economic productivity
- 60% of the rural population will reside in communities benefiting from modern social services such as portable water, health care etc.
- The total cost of the programme is about \$5 billion per annum for the next 10 years.



Thank You

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