

Development, Energy in Africa

Inception Meeting
30-31st May 2005

Recap of first day's discussion
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Recurrent Messages

- **Access**- Access to energy is key but it is not just about access quality of access is important too!
- **Catalytic Effect** – Energy contribute to the delivery of social services & reduction of poverty
- **Policy** - Policy dialogue is not an episodic event
- **Engagement** – that the private sector and civil society alike need to be sufficiently engaged
- **Integrated Development** – the multisectoral approach and cross linkages are important (all aspects of SD incl. environment)
- **Contextual Experiences** – Local realities and priorities matter important
- **Feel Good Factor** – energy services have to translate into cash

Key Issues in Words

- Definitional Clarity
- Purpose
- Relevance
- Orientation
- Value Addition
- Opportunity
- Linkages
- Measurements

Definitional Clarity

“If our people knew what mainstreaming is they would have done it”

- **Consensus** - common understanding of key concepts (complex, relative, context-specific)
- **Ownership** – How do countries/communities define poverty?
- **Holistic** – link energy to different definitions of poverty
- **Content** – how do we define what goes into the catalogue?

Purpose

“What good is a tool?”

Finality

- Poverty alleviation + development = entry point
- Poverty alleviation is our mantra
- Rooted in development and energy priorities and needs
- Technology = means to an end

Relevance

“We cannot assess everything”

- **Scale** - Keeping it focused
- **Concrete examples** – Learning from successful and unsuccessful energy projects
- **Development Proxies** – convey info. to p.makers
- **Prioritisation** – What information do policy makers need?
- **Contextualisation** – Making allowance for local, national and international (externalities) factors

Orientation

“We need a ladder – but we need to know where we want to go”

- **High versus low pitch** – SLA approach, MDG – each of these would determine:
 - Tempo
 - Pace
 - Orientation

Value addition

“We keep calling on the same people and there is such a thing as workshop fatigue”

- Complementary not duplication
- Originality not routine
- Inclusive rather than reinventing the wheel
- Creating a niche
- Additionality is important

Opportunity

- **Prospects** – What is the potential for reducing poverty?
- **Policy** – How can we exploit policy gaps to influence policy?
- **Methodology** – How do we use the assessment tools to identify the missing links?
- **Flexibility** - What opportunities can we exploit within the project to create synergies? (b/w sectors/partners etc)

Linkages

“Energy is not an isolated sector”

- **All encompassing** - Communities do not think in terms of sectors
- **Barometer** – Energy as a socio-economic barometer (health, education, transport, gender equity)

Exploiting direct and indirect linkages

Empowerment

“Energy is a basic right”

- **Wellbeing** – What “values” and “rights” are we talking about – freedom, participation, growth, water, food etc.
- **Choice and Opportunity** – freedom to choose services that best meet requirements
- **Federating Element** - Energy is important input for health, food security, water and education
- **Indirect linkages** – Irrigation services for enhanced productivity and livelihoods opportunities

Measurements

“Policies are developed and nothing is put in place to show much is being done”

- Stocktaking is a vital part of the process
- Are policies having an impact on the quality of energy services?
- What is an indicator? – electrification =energy security???
- Not every indicator is worth measuring
- Balance is everything!!!

Observations

- **Interrogation** – We ask more questions than we provided answers
- **Reaffirmation** – Not afraid of stating the obvious
- **Reality check** – Yes we can help to influence policy but electrification is an electoral issue
- **Comfort zone syndrome** – we are playing it safe especially in terms of our methodology
- Lets substitute **DEA** for **DARE**

Small talk versus Big talk!

British Telecom Advert:

“Its good to talk”

Harriette

“Talk talk, no action”

French Philosopher

“Il faut rever nos actions”