Poor People's Energy Outlook 2016

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Integrating Community Energy Access Priorities into the National Plans

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Country Context

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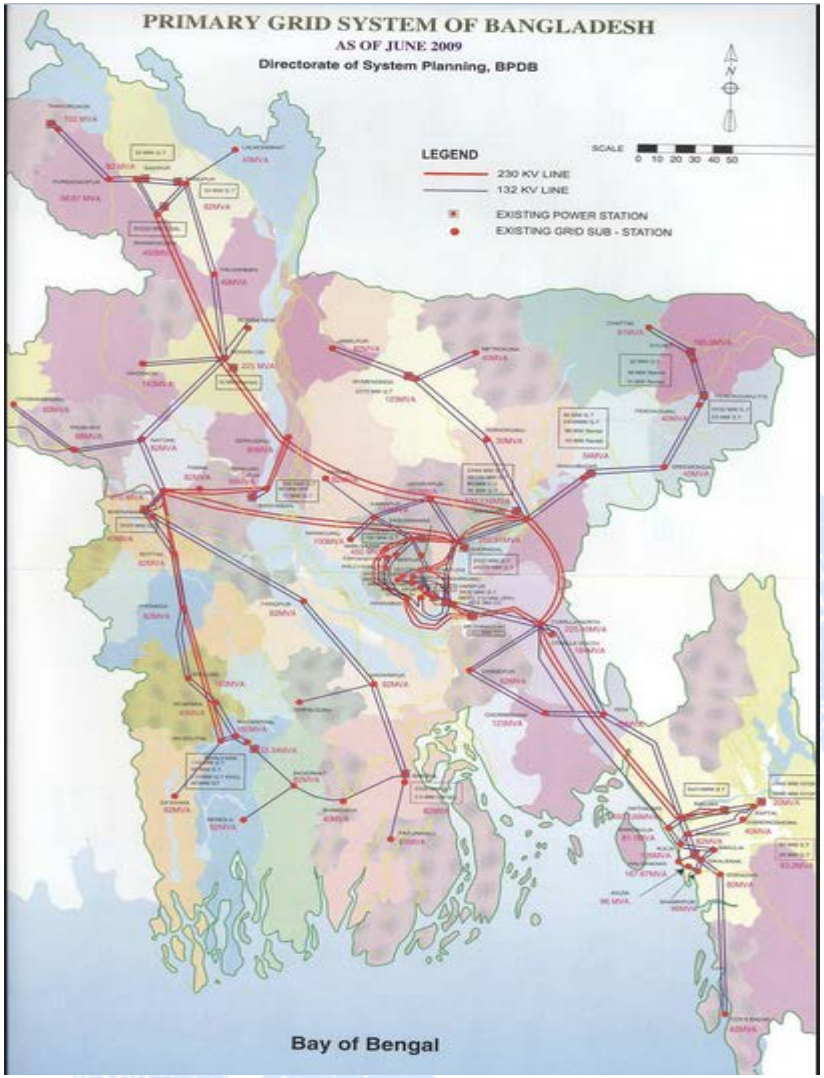
Total Population 16+ Million

- **59.6%** connected to grid electricity
- **32%** Remains below upper poverty line
- **17%** Extreme poor
- **70% +** Lives in the rural area



https://energypedia.info/images/1/1c/Bangladesh_grid_map.jpg

Energy situation prevailing

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90%+

People use solid fuels for cooking (SE4All, 2015)

137 million +

affected by household air pollution (HAP)

78,000 deaths

can be attributed to the lack of clean cooking annually

510,000 only

improved biomass stoves are in use

New solutions to old problems

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While many stakeholders acknowledge the need to utilise all available energy options, both off- and on-grid, and for clean cooking, these are rarely mainstreamed in practice.

Governments and donors continue to design policies, regulations and infrastructure without a realistic understanding of the needs of those they intend to serve.

The vast majority of interventions are still planned around connections and megawatts; metrics which fail to measure energy access on the basis of quality, affordability, appropriateness, reliability and safety.

Case Study Communities

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Location	% below upper Poverty rate (2010)	% electricity connections (2010)
Bandarban (Thanchi)	40.1%	49.1%
Barguna (Tengagri Chak)	19.0%	33.1%
Sunamganj (Alamkhali)	26.0%	29.6%
Panchagarh (Sardar Para)	26.7%	34.1%
All rural Bangladesh	35.2%	42.5%

Prioritization of Energy Needs

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Priority	Thanchi	Tengagri Chak	Alamkhali	Sardar Para
1st				
2nd				
3rd				

Key Findings to Highlight

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Cooking

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- The very low penetration rate of improved cook-stoves and the urgency of this situation – **need for more awareness raising around the health implications of unclean cooking**.
- Collecting and preparing the fuel for cooking puts a **huge time burden on women daily**.
- Improved cook-stoves must be **designed practically**
- Awareness raising needs strong emphasis on Why would households choose a cook-stove which increases the cooking time burden

Solar Home Systems (SHS)

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- Whilst the penetration of SHS has been very high, the quality of these systems means that **people still do not have the level of energy access** that they require to meet their expressed needs and priorities.

- The **very poorest are still unable to afford a SHS** (and earn on average half as much as those who do have a SHS).

Therefore, a **strategy** is needed for meeting the energy access needs of the very poorest people.

Mini-grids

- Mini-grids can offer a
    - cheaper option
    - better quality and
    - reliability of energy

- Finding was, even where the grid had reached (e.g. Tengagri Chak, just), it was unreliable. Subsidised and therefore run at a loss.

A solar-diesel hybrid mini-grid systems probably work out cheaper than the grid overall.

Gender Aspects

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- Household electricity will especially benefit women

- A gendered dimension to energy access for productive uses; women dominate the labour market for small-scale, manual work such as rice threshing, while men are predominantly found in larger productive initiatives.

Any national plan therefore needs to take these **gendered differences into account**, and **value the working needs** of men and women equally.

Thank you

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