

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS: GHANA'S STRATEGY FOR POVERTY REDUCTION

Speaking Notes

Main Goals of the MDG

- ✍ .Reduce poverty (proportion of people who live on less than US\$1/day) by 50% by 2015
- ✍ .Achieve universal primary education:
- ✍ .Promote gender equality and women empowerment .Reduce maternal health and child mortality
- ✍ .Combat HIV / AIDS, malaria and other diseases .Ensure environmental sustainability
- ✍ .Develop a Global Partnership for Development

Background

Ghana has had many interventions to improve access to modern energy services by the rural folk in order to support socio economic development. The objective of these interventions has been to create wealth (cottage industries etc.) employment and alleviate poverty. The key vehicle for improving access to modern energy in the rural areas is the Government's rural electrification program.

Ghana's Rural Electrification Programme

- ✍ Based on a Master plan to electrify the whole country over a 30 year period from 1990-2020.
- ✍ At the time of enacting the NES policy, access to electricity in Ghana was less than **20%** and 64 out of the 110 district capitals in the country were without electricity supply from the national grid.
- ✍ From 1989 to 2001, about 1,900 towns/villages were connected to the national electricity grid. The on-going phase of the rural electrification programme will result in the extension of electricity supply to a total of 2,200 communities by the end of the year
- ✍ Currently, about **40%** of Ghanaians have access to electricity.

Solar

- ✍ .Solar programmes are complementary to the grid extension in areas where it is not economical to extend the grid.
- ✍ .A major project is the GoG/UNDP/GEF funded in the East Mamprusi area. This pilot project which has a catchments area of about 13 communities is testing the viability of the fee for service concept in the northern region of Ghana. This project has installed about 1,400 home connections as a number of community based systems such as health center, pumping and other uses.
- ✍ .There are also externally funded solar programmes, which are testing other forms of solar power delivery such as financing in rural areas etc.

Others

- ✍ .Renewable Energy projects such as biogas on pilot basis.
- ✍ .Programmes to rationalize the use of wood fuels in Ghana for sustainability and reduce forest depletion
- ✍ .Fuel switching programmes such as the LPG programme.

Broad outline of Ghana's Rural Energy Strategy to meet Millennium Development Goals

Objectives

- ✍ .Rural energy supply strategy is to deliver reliable competitive power in a sustainable manner to support poverty alleviation and wealth creation in the rural areas.
- ✍ .Rural energy delivery will be carried out in a multi-sectoral manner involving health, education, sanitation and other components. Therefore the energy delivery will not be seen as an "energy project" but as part of a composite service.
- ✍ .Improve the availability of energy to support its delivery to the country.

Programme to increase energy availability

- ✍ .A programme to increase the availability of energy has been put in place.
- ✍ Sources of energy are both conventional and renewable.

Rural Electrification Program

- ✍️ .Rural electrification project in form and substance will be maintained and pursued using conventional grid extension and shield wire technology as appropriate.
- ✍️ .Emphasis will be on productive uses and priority of extension will be based on the potential for the productive use of electricity.
- ✍️ .Next phase of rural electrification programme will add another 2,000 communities. This will increase access to electricity by about 5- 10%.

Renewable Energy Development for Rural Areas

- ✍️ .Major thrust on expansion of access and coverage of renewable energy especially solar and biomass. The experience from the RESPRO and REDP projects will form the basis for their expansion.
- ✍️ .Solar (PV) technology will be expanded to off-grid areas and will be targeted at health centres, telecom including ICT, schools and where appropriate, productive enterprises.

Target Areas to reduce Poverty

- ✍️ **.Health:** Rural health centers are to be provided with modern forms of energy (grid or solar) in order to improve access to health care. Indeed many remote health centres are run on solar system.
- ✍️ **.Education:** Rural and remote schools are to be given priority to allow for :
 - Improvement of ICT (modern forms of education).
 - Attraction of teachers
 - Improve girl child education (less time for household tasks ego Fuelwood collection etc.)
- ✍️ **.Agriculture:** priority for
 - Cottage industries
 - Improvement in mechanized agriculture etc
- ✍️ **.Small Scale industries:**
 - Promotion of productive uses of energy
 - PUE to be integral component of the delivery of services
 - Provision of financing arrangements
 - Training and capacity building