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FORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY





# **POLICY BRIEF #23**

# **ACHIEVING SDG 7 IN LDCS, LLDCS AND SIDS**

## **Developed by**

O ce of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and the Small Island Developing States (UN OHRLLS) and United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Paci c (UNESCAP)

## In collaboration with

UNCTAD, UNIDO, UNECA, UNECLAC, UNESCWA, IRENA and FIA Foundation

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#### **KEY MESSAGES**

- LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS consist of 91 countries with a total population of about 1.1 billion. Access to energy in these vulnerable countries remains a major challenge.
- About half of the people in the world without electricity live in LDCs. In 2016, the proportion of the population in LDCs with access to electricity was 44.8 per cent. In LLDCs it was 53.1 per cent, and SIDS it was 76.3 per cent. This data hides disparities between countries and regions, as well as urban and rural areas, and some countries are trailing way behind, with an access rate as low as 7.6 per cent.
- Ending energy poverty in vulnerable countries and ensuring that no country or person is left behind has to become a priority for all stakeholders in order to achieve the 2030 Agenda.
- Each country's transition to a sustainable energy sector involves a unique mix of resource opportunities and challenges. National plans and policies should be designed for the particular needs and resources of each country, with a mix of grid, mini-grid and o -grid solutions.
- All vulnerable countries face ine ciencies in power utilities, which impact their operations and nancial viability, and deter the private investments needed to improve generating capacity, and transmission and distributions systems.
- To achieve the global goals on energy in LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS it will be essential to act fast to create enabling environments for
  private sector investment and to promote attractive project pipelines. This will require well-functioning institutions, and policy and
  regulatory reforms to help build credibility with investors and e ectively scale up private investment, leveraging public resources
  for country-level implementation.
- Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) and development partners should increase the funding allocated to sustainable energy
  in LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS as this will have an impact across di erent sectors, including most of the SDGs, accelerating poverty
  eradication, structural transformation, and reducing vulnerability to uctuating global energy prices.
- Moving a project from initial plan to bankable project requires signi cant time and human and capital resources (to prepare feasibility studies, environmental impact assessments, and permits). Vulnerable countries need more targeted support from their partners for project preparation to fast-track progress.
- Enhance integration of regional/cross border energy infrastructure and institutions to ensure economies of scale and lower the unit cost of energy generation.

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but also on productive uses and economic development, with a gradual shift towards self-sustaining systems promoting economic development that is transformative and inclusive. These two di erent types of end-use demand are mutually supportive.

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The term sustainable energy in this policy brief encompasses access to three forms of energy, each of which provides dist nct but essent al benef ts for economic and social development: less pollut ng household energy for cooking and heat ng, including from improved cookstoves with tradit onal solid biomass fuels, from liquid and gaseous fuels such as kerosene and LPG, or energy from renewable energy sources such as solar; electricity for powering appliances and lights in households and public facilities such as health clinics, schools, and government of ces; and mechanical power from either electricity or other energy sources that improve the product vity of labour.

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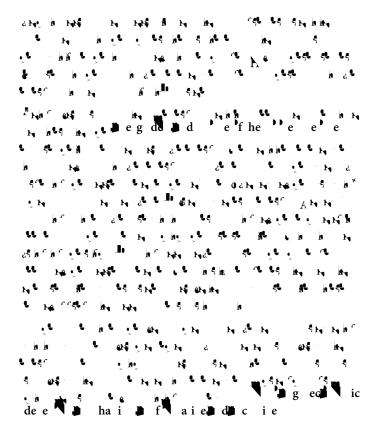
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