

## The Sustainable Development Goals

### An interconnected and coherent Framework

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), otherwise known as the Global Goals, are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. SDG 7 if achieved is to benefit billions of people across the world specially the women and children. About 1 billion people still lack access to electricity and close to 3

billion people rely on wood, charcoal, animal and crop wastes, or other solid fuels to cook their food and heat their homes. The SDGs are all interconnected and with the political will, the achievement of SDG 7 is within the reach. This year's High-Level Political Forum in July will review our progress on SDG 7. As we work at global, national, regional and local level let us **know**, **reflect** and **act** to achieve the SDGs.

#### Goal 7:

Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.



#### INTERLINKAGES BETWEEN SDG 7 AND OTHER SDGs:

##### Energy, Poverty and Inequalities:(SDG7,1&10)

SDG 7 is a condition for economic development, poverty alleviation (SDG 1) and reducing inequalities (SDG 10). Progress on SDG 7 can be seen as a means towards achieving other SDGs and the principle “Leave no one behind”. Unequal access to energy and low human development are highly correlated. People living in extreme poverty are deprived of their basic rights. The women living in the rural villages have to walk miles and miles to collect the firewood for cooking. The concept of “energy poverty” includes “fuel poverty” in the developed world but is most often used in the context of lack of access in the developing world to electricity, and/ or clean cooking fuels or technologies. In situations where people do have access to energy, the poorest often end up paying disproportionate shares of income for energy. About 1.2 billion people still lack access to electricity and nearly 40 per cent of the people in the world lack access to clean cooking fuels.

##### Energy and Education: (SDG7&4)

Access to modern, reliable and affordable energy is critical for development and contributes directly to achieving positive educational outcomes. Education facilities require energy for lighting, cooking, heating, cooling, water delivery and purification, and information and communication technology (ICT), including for emergency and medical emergencies. Globally over 291 million children go to primary schools without any

electricity, 188 million in sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and Latin America. About 57 million children still do not go to school, half of them in sub-Saharan Africa. Although education levels have increased over the years, globally about 103 million young people still lack basic literacy skills, almost 60 per cent of them female (UN, 2017) and youth literacy levels tend to be lower in countries with electrification rates below 80 per cent.

#### Energy and Gender: (SDG7&5)

There is a clear and important intersection between energy access and gender equality. Women and children are often disproportionately affected by lack of energy access, in that large amounts of their time and labour must typically go towards meeting daily needs (for example gathering biomass for cooking or manually processing grain or other food in the absence of machines). Additionally, lack of access has important implications for the intersection of gender equality considerations and many of the other SDGs. Under current policies and trends, 2.3 billion people will still lack access to clean cooking facilities in 2030 (IEA, 2017). Women and children bear the greatest burden of energy poverty. In contrast, access to and use of clean energy brings interconnected, corollary benefits related to greater gender equality, economic productivity, educational opportunities, and more.

#### Energy and Health: (SDG7&3)

Energy sustains us, connects us and sometimes even saves us. We use it to cook our meals, to light and heat our homes, to get where we want to go, to produce and use most goods, and to power our medical devices and health-care systems. Having access to reliable, clean, modern energy sources enables people to live to their full potential. Lack of access to clean fuels and technologies for cooking currently has negative effects on the health of 3 billion people, and related household air pollution is a cause of some 4 million deaths from noncommunicable diseases (including heart disease, stroke and cancer), as well as childhood pneumonia. Inefficient household energy use is a particular health and livelihood risk for women, children and infants. Access to clean fuels and technologies has the potential to save millions of lives each year.

#### Conclusion:

The 2030 Agenda is universal, transformative, and rights-based. It is an ambitious plan of action for countries, the UN system, and all other actors. The Agenda is the most comprehensive blueprint to date for eliminating extreme poverty, reducing inequality, and protecting the planet. It calls for the participation of all segments of society—irrespective of their race, gender, ethnicity, and identity—to contribute to its implementation. Advocacy and awareness raising efforts for the goals, which are actionable and achievable, are crucial to mobilise support for the Agenda. Therefore, let us work hand in hand to make it possible for all to live in peace and prosperity. **For Reference click [here](#).**