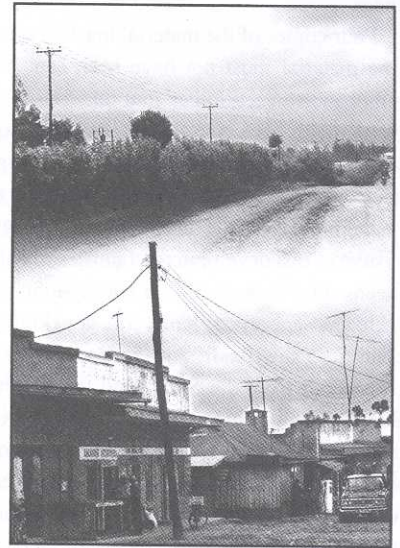


Volume VIII No. 4 • December 2004  
 Special issue on power sector reform  
 and its impact on the poor

# Energy for Sustainable Development

**Cover illustration:**

This issue looks at power sector reform and how it has affected electrification for the poor in developing countries. In much of Asia, Africa and Latin America, only small numbers of the poor, especially the rural poor, have access to electricity. For instance, only about 1 % of rural households in Kenya have access to electricity. The illustration shows two scenes of rural electrification in Kenya. See "Have power sector reforms increased access to electricity among the poor in East Africa?", Page 10.



**Editors' Introduction**

Close to half of the world's population is "poor" as defined by international agencies. This special issue of *Energy for Sustainable Development* on power sector reform and its impact on the poor is based on a study undertaken by GNESD's "Energy Access" Working Group. The study has been assessing the impact of reforms on the poor in the developing regions and determining what approaches are more successful in safeguarding their access to energy. The "Editors' introduction" discusses the work done in the study and describes some of the highlights of the individual articles that follow.

**Articles**

**Have power sector reforms increased access to electricity among the poor in East Africa? 10**

*Stephen Karekezi and John Kimani*  
 This article focuses on power sector reforms in Kenya and Uganda, where only 1 % of the rural households have access to electricity. The reforms appear to have been detrimental to increasing this access and rural electrification was only addressed at the end of the process.

**Electricity access for the poor: a study of South Africa and Zimbabwe 26**

*Ogunlade Davidson and Stanford A. Mwakasonda*  
 This paper looks at electricity access for the poor in Zimbabwe and South Africa, which represent two different cases of how government policy can help to improve this access. The paper examines the impact of power sector reforms on the poor.

**Institutional reforms and electricity access: lessons from Bangladesh and Thailand 41**

*Ram M. Shrestha, S. Kumar, Sudhir Sharma and Monaliza J. Todoc*  
 This paper discusses the institutional reforms for rural electrification (RE) in Thailand and Bangladesh and analyses the impacts of private sector participation in electricity generation on the poor in both countries.

**Impact of power sector reform on the poor: case-studies of South and South-East Asia 54**

*A.R. Sihag, Neha Misra and Vivek Sharma*  
 This paper examines the impact of reform

processes adopted in selected states in India and in the Philippines on access to electricity for the poor. The focus in India has been on improving financial viability of the ailing power sector, while the Philippine legislation addresses the needs of the poor.

**Assessment of energy sector reforms: case-studies from Latin America 74**

*Roberto Kozulj and Nicolas Di Sbroiavacca*  
 This article discusses the impact of energy sector reforms on Argentina, Peru, and El Salvador. The reforms have had a many-sided impact on the poor, because many of them have been carried out through macroeconomic schemes that have led to an increase in poverty.

**Expanding access to electricity in Brazil 86**

*José Goldemberg, Emilio Lèbre La Rovere, and Suani Teixeira Coelho*  
 When Brazil's electricity sector was restructured, scant attention was paid to the expansion of services to poor users and rural areas. This paper examines the main negative impacts on electricity access for poor consumers in rural and urban areas in the country.