

Project Summary

Project Background

Cambodia faces a formidable array of development challenges. In this post-conflict country many of the foundations for growth have been shattered and need to be restored. With the lowest per capita income, rural electrification rates, highest energy costs and weakest overall economy in south-east Asia, Cambodia faces a considerable challenge as competes with Thailand and Viet Nam for resources and export related trade.

Access to modern energy services and electricity is extremely limited in rural Cambodia. Only 20% of the total population and less than 9% of the people living in rural areas have access to electricity.

Project Objectives

The main objective of this project is to contribute to the alleviation of poverty by increasing the living standards of the rural population through provision of energy services for productive use and income generation. It will do this by demonstrating through selected pilot projects in business model the potential and impact that tailor-made energy services based on renewable energies can make in improving the socio-economic livelihoods of rural communities.

The target beneficiaries of the project comprise the:

- population in general and the rural poor in particular who will improve their living standards using the energy services for social and income generating activities;
- government, public sector and institutions that will develop new skills through involvement in energy/rural planning and project development;
- private entrepreneurs, energy service providers and productive users of energy; and
- national and regional institutions, associations, universities, etc.

Project Activities

The project includes the establishment of regulatory framework with clear policy on Independent PowerProducers (IPP) but comprises also the implementation 5 pilot subprojects:

- Site identification and realisation of a mini hydropower plant (150 kW) in the province of Rattanakiri
- Production of plant oil for power generation on the community level
- Use of solar thermal energy for drying fruits, mushrooms and other agricultural products
- Mini-grid connection and efficiency improvements of local industries, e.g. rubber factory, ice factory and rice millers
- RESCO development and promotion of productive use to unlock social and economic potentials in the rural areas

Services Provided

- Implementation of pilot projects for renewable energy technologies for productive use
- Establishment of commercial business models for renewable energy technologies
- Establishment of regulatory framework
- Local and regional capacity building to realise the business model
- Project management

Cambodia

Rural Energy for Productive Use and Income Generation in Cambodia

Client

UNIDO

Duration

04/2006 - 04/2010

Personnel

10 PM pool of internat. STE:
- team leader
- hydropower engineers
- RE experts
- energy economist
- oil extraction experts
- solar drying expert

