



ENERGY JUSTICE IN PRACTICE

Pathways to a Fair Transition



**2024 GOOD PRACTICES
REPORT ON JUST
ENERGY TRANSITION
INITIATIVES**



CONTENT

INTRODUCTION	1
CAMBODIA: Empowering CSOs, Communities, and the Private Sector to Shape Policies for a Just Energy Transition	5
COLOMBIA: Contributing to the improvement of energy transition processes in La Guajira Through Strengthening the Wayúu Women's Territorial Agenda	8
MENA: Increasing Capacities of Feminist and Climate Activists on Locally led JET Advocacy in the MENA Region	11
SENEGAL: Leveraging Advocacy and Data to Reimagine Oil and Gas Profitability	15
UGANDA: Just Energy Transition for Refugees and Host communities in West Nile	18
PHILIPPINES: Strengthening Women's Economic Empowerment and Just Energy Transitions for Community and Climate Resilience by Expanding its Reach (SWEETER)	20
KENYA: Capacity Building of Civil Society and Communities to Raise Awareness and Influence Government JET Policies and Plans to Promote Access to Clean and Sustainable Energy	23
GHANA: Balancing Resources and Rights: Oxfam's Multidimensional Review of Ghana's Critical Minerals Sector	26
BANGLADESH: Renewable Energy Pathways for Bangladesh's Ready-Made Garment Sector and Marginalized Communities	28
MALAWI: Driving Energy Reforms through Advocacy, Community Engagement, and Policy Research	30

ABBREVIATIONS

CSO - Civil Society Organization
DANIDA – Danish International Development Agency
EITI - Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative
FMW - Fuerza de Mujeres Wayúu
IEA - International Energy Agency
JET – Just Energy Transition
JETP - Just Energy Transition Partnership
MENA – Middle East and North Africa
PSE - Plan Sénégal Émergent
PWYP - Publish What You Pay
RMG - ready-made garment

PHOTO CREDITS:

Frontpage: Oxfam Cambodia
Page 5-6: Oxfam Cambodia
Page 8-10: Oxfam Colombia
Page 11-14: Oxfam Syria
Page 15-17: Oxfam Senegal
Page 18-19: Oxfam Uganda
Page 20-22: Oxfam Philippines
Page 23-25: Oxfam Kenya
Page 26: Oxfam Ghana
Page 28-29: Oxfam Bangladesh
Page 30-32: Oxfam Malawi

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INTRODUCTION

The climate crisis is unfolding with profound consequences, disproportionately burdening communities in low-income countries that have contributed the least to the problem. These communities face escalating challenges, from dwindling resources to increasing economic vulnerabilities, as the impacts of global warming intensify.

In this critical moment, the transition from fossil fuels to clean energy represents more than an environmental solution—it is a transformative opportunity. It offers a pathway to simultaneously tackle poverty, reduce inequality, and address long-standing gender disparities. However, this opportunity carries significant risks. Without fair adequate financing, careful planning and a commitment to fairness and protecting workers and communities' rights, the energy transition could entrench existing inequalities, pushing low income and marginalised populations further into hardship. The energy transition must not only reduce emissions but also serve as a foundation for equity and inclusion, ensuring its benefits reach all communities—not just a privileged minority.

Oxfam's programme and policy work on Just Energy Transition (JET) directly addresses these critical challenges. Positioned as a cornerstone of the Oxfam International Climate Influencing Strategy, JET forms a key priority under the Shifting of Power theme aiming to scale up equitable access to responsibly produced renewable energy and catalyse a fast, fair and funded phase out of fossil fuels. And, in the Oxfam Denmark 2022-25 climate strategy, JET aligns with three thematic priorities: climate finance, climate education and climate resilience as well as the cross-cutting priority of promoting gender equality and youth engagement.

Through a dual approach, Oxfam combines influencing efforts—focused on shifting power dynamics and advancing climate justice through research, advocacy, and civil society strengthening—with direct support to low income and marginalised communities. This includes fostering nature-based solutions and building local resilience to the impacts of climate change.

Oxfam's efforts in the JET domain have become a defining feature of its climate justice work, setting a benchmark for just and inclusive energy transitions at a global scale. Notably, this work is made possible through the invaluable contributions and dedicated efforts of partner organizations, country and regional teams and Oxfam affiliates.

Oxfam has extensive and growing experience in working and advocating for a Just Energy Transition (JET). In 2022, an internal scoping study was conducted to map the influencing and programmatic JET work across 12 countries and laid the foundation for future fundraising and initiatives¹. Successively, an external research report was produced to influence and inform various policy and practice². To build on the existing work and strengthen Oxfam's approaches and learnings on JET, a Global JET Funding project titled "Ensuring Just Energy Transitions in Low- and Middle-Income Countries" was initiated alongside the establishment of an Oxfam-wide community of practice, and an advocacy and fundraising task force, on JET. In 2024, the Global JET Project funded projects in Cambodia, Colombia, Kenya, MENA, the Philippines, Senegal, and Uganda

¹ Internal scoping report JET 2023 (internal)

² Dante, D. et al (2023) Towards a Just Energy Transition: Implications for communities in lower- and middle-income countries, Oxfam

The **main objective** of this global JET initiative is to contribute to Oxfam’s efforts for mainstreaming JET by aggregating knowledge and good practices and facilitating its dissemination to country programs and partners. Accordingly, the expected **outcomes** are:

- Piloting, documenting, and scaling of JET solutions and good practices that improve access to just and clean energy for vulnerable communities.
- Influencing a just energy transition, including via the integration of the JET principles in government and private sector policies, and the compliance of mega renewable and transition mineral projects with the just energy principles.
- Building a robust learning base on JET strategies and good practices based on the existing projects and promoting the work externally to contribute to their uptake and scaling

In connection to the third outcome, a workshop on “*Global JET good practices and learnings*” was held online on June 26th, 2024, with Oxfam staff and partners from 16 different country- and regional Oxfam offices, which were either directly involved in the project or had relevant and extensive JET experience to share, such as Ghana, Malawi and Bangladesh. Building on this, this report of JET initiatives compiles a diverse range of good practices from countries where Oxfam is actively engaged in programmatic and influencing work on JET. It provides a comprehensive overview of how these initiatives have contributed to tangible outcomes, while grounding each example in the unique contextual realities of the respective countries within the broader framework of the clean energy transition.

By examining cases from Cambodia, Colombia, the MENA region (Syria, Lebanon, Palestine), Senegal, Uganda, the Philippines, Kenya, Ghana, Bangladesh, and Malawi, this report highlights the ways in which JET efforts can address systemic challenges such as inequality, poverty, and climate vulnerability. Each case offers insights into strategies and approaches that have fostered community resilience, supported sustainable development, and amplified the voices of marginalized groups.



CAMBODIA

EMPOWERING CSOS, COMMUNITIES, AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO SHAPE POLICIES FOR A JUST ENERGY TRANSITION

Background

Cambodia has made significant strides in its electrification processes and is actively working towards phasing out fossil fuels. Over the past two decades, the country has transformed its energy sector, increasing electrification from 6.6% in 2000 to approximately 97.5% of the population by the end of 2021. This rapid growth has garnered global recognition, with Cambodia being termed one of the fastest electrifying countries in the world³. As of early 2022, approximately 350 villages remained without power, but plans are in place to connect around 170 villages to the national grid over the next few years. Despite these efforts, reliability and affordability remain challenges, with many connected households experiencing frequent power shortages⁴.

Cambodia's electricity generation is predominantly from hydropower, accounting for around 44%, with a smaller share from solar, which is approximately 6%⁵. However, as of 2023, about half of the electricity generation still relies on fossil fuels mainly coal. In alignment with global climate commitments, Cambodia has set ambitious targets to increase the share of renewable energy in its energy mix to 30% by 2030 as part of its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement⁶. Moreover, Cambodia's Minister of Environment launched "Cambodia's Long-Term Strategy for Carbon Neutrality"⁷, which outlines the country's plan to reach carbon neutrality by 2050.

Initiatives

Despite significant progress, challenges remain in ensuring reliable access to electricity, particularly in rural areas where geographical difficulties hinder connection efforts. Therefore, the Oxfam Global funding JET-initiative in Cambodia aimed at fostering public-private partnerships to provide off-grid solar power to improve energy access of rural communities.

This included conducting a study on the green transition in Cambodia and identifying pathways to engage Civil society organizations (CSOs), communities, and the private sector in shaping JET policies. The results highlight four key topics in the context of Cambodia: i) Access to electricity, ii) Off-grid energy solutions for unelectrified villages, iii) Diverging priorities of different

³ EnergyLab Asia: Cambodia Clean Energy Transition

⁴ Open Development Cambodia: Electricity Infrastructure

⁵ Renewable Energy in Cambodia - Challenges and Opportunities

⁶ UNDP: Reaching Cambodia's Last Mile with Inclusive and Sustainable Energy Access

⁷ Cambodia: Long-Term Strategy for Carbon Neutrality (LTS4CN)

stakeholders, and iii) Social and environmental impact of large-scale energy projects. Additionally, four engagement strategies were identified: i) Knowledge generation in collaboration with grassroots and civil society, ii) Knowledge dissemination and collaborative learning with key stakeholders, iii) Strategic dialogue and networks to influence governments, and iii) Capacity building of local communities to shape JET.

Another key initiative under the Oxfam-in-Cambodia JET framework is the introduction of solar-powered irrigation systems, addressing the pressing water access challenges faced by Cambodian farmers. In rural areas, many farmers rely on fuel-powered pumps, which are often inefficient and fail to meet the water demands of their crops. Rising fuel prices further exacerbate their financial strain, making farming increasingly unsustainable for smallholder communities.



In 2022, solar-powered water pumping stations were installed in Pursat Province, offering a sustainable and cost-effective solution to enhance agricultural productivity and community resilience.

These systems provide a reliable water supply while significantly reducing operational costs and labor demands, transforming the agricultural landscape for Cambodian farmers. Beyond improving livelihoods, the technology fosters greater inclusivity by enabling women to actively participate in farming activities,

traditionally dominated by men.

To promote the adoption of solar-powered irrigation in agriculture, the Global JET Fund supported the production of a video documenting the impact of these systems in Pursat Province. This initiative has not only amplified awareness but also highlighted the tangible benefits experienced by local farmers and leaders. Seng Thida, a community leader, described the advantages of solar energy, stating, “For our community, we see that by using solar energy, the benefits are far greater than with traditional machines.” Seng also highlights the empowering aspect of the solar-powered system, noting that:



“Women can now operate it. Before, only men handled these tasks, but now we can do it ourselves.”

Farmer Sin Ra reflected on his struggles before the introduction of solar technology: “I lost profit because the traditional pumps couldn’t provide enough water for my rice fields. On top of that, the cost of fuel was overwhelming. We used about 30 litres a night, and it still wasn’t enough to irrigate a 2-hectare field.” With the new solar-powered systems, farmers like Sin Ra are now able to sustainably irrigate their fields, reducing costs while increasing productivity. Seng Thida concluded with a hopeful vision: “I hope all communities across Cambodia will switch from fuel-powered pumps to solar-powered systems.”

The research and video production on Pursat Province is playing a pivotal role in documenting and promoting the uptake of solar energy and thereby aims to further support Cambodia's transition from fossil fuel dependency to renewable energy. The project documentation highlights the socio-economic dimensions of the energy transition, with a particular emphasis on ensuring inclusivity and justice, particularly for marginalized and vulnerable communities. By incorporating the stories and perspectives of community members, the videos and case study construct a compelling narrative that addresses local energy challenges while illustrating pathways to empowerment and amplifying these voices to a broader audience. The full video on the solar-powered irrigation systems in Pursat Province can be watched [here](#).

Focusing on key stakeholders, including CSOs, local communities, and the private sector, these efforts aim to influence policies that advance a just energy transition in Cambodia. The Oxfam in Cambodia team and partners strategically utilizes these materials as advocacy tools to promote the shift towards clean solar energy, while also emphasizing the advantages of solar-powered irrigation in agriculture. Furthermore, the research presents targeted policy recommendations in critical areas such as solar rooftop standards, licensing frameworks, environmental and social impact assessments, and the rural electricity fund. Collectively, these recommendations serve to support a just, equitable, and expedited energy transition in Cambodia.



COLOMBIA

CONTRIBUTING TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF ENERGY TRANSITION PROCESSES IN LA GUAJIRA THROUGH STRENGTHENING THE WAYÚU WOMEN'S TERRITORIAL AGENDA

Background

La Guajira is undergoing a critical transition as part of efforts to decarbonize the energy grid by 2034. Central to this shift is the planned closure of El Cerrejón, Latin America's largest open-pit coal mine, operated by a Swiss multinational company. Simultaneously, the region is experiencing a significant surge in wind energy projects, reshaping its energy landscape. While this transition aligns with global calls to phase out fossil fuels, it presents significant challenges for the Wayúu people and the region. The closure of El Cerrejón mine marks a pivotal moment for the region, bringing both significant challenges and opportunities. While the mine has long been criticized by local communities for destroying the environment and consuming a lot of water, it has also provided much-needed employment and economic activity in an already vulnerable area. Its shutdown, though a positive step toward addressing the environmental and social damage caused by decades of mining, creates an urgent need to navigate the shifting landscape of economic opportunities and prevent deepening poverty and social instability. The impact of the mine's operations has been profound, as one resident explains to Oxfam:

“Cerrejón has affected us a great deal because practically all crop production, crops, livestock, and animals are affected. Its impact on social, cultural, and environmental fabric – it has changed the chronological system of our life.”

The closure, while necessary to halt further harm, leaves many without livelihoods, highlighting the critical need for a just transition that prioritizes support for affected communities.

However, the shift to renewable energy projects, while offering promising opportunities, does not automatically address the longstanding need for reparations and justice for those who have endured historical human rights violations⁸ or ensure fairness going forward. As the region charts its path forward, it is essential to ensure that the transition not only reduces emissions but also fosters sustainable economic alternatives for workers displaced from the coal phase out and also addresses the deep scars left by El Cerrejón, ensuring fairness, inclusion, and restorative justice for those most impacted.

⁸ Cerrejon Coal Mine, Colombia | GLAN

Moreover, the planned acceleration of renewable energy projects, including over 60 wind parks and major solar developments such as Latin America’s largest Solar Park, adds a new layer of complexity^{9,10}. The Declaration of Indigenous Peoples and the Just Energy Transition warns that current practices risk perpetuating the very injustices they aim to address—such as land and resource dispossession, community disintegration, and the marginalization of Indigenous women and youth¹¹. Without proper safeguards, these initiatives could replicate the exploitative practices of the coal mining industry under a new guise.

Local communities, civil society organizations, and research institutions emphasize the urgent need to uphold human rights, enforce environmental standards, ensure tax justice, and deliver equitable benefits to affected populations. This transition must not only focus on renewable energy development but also address the socio-economic fallout of the mine’s closure and the historical injustices it inflicted.

By integrating justice into every stage of this energy transformation, the region can avoid repeating the mistakes of the past and instead create a sustainable and equitable future. Ensuring fairness for impacted communities, fostering economic resilience, and respecting Indigenous rights are critical to achieving a truly just energy transition that benefits all.

Initiatives

Oxfam Colombia has been working in partnership with the Fuerza de Mujeres Wayúu (FMW) since 2018 to address growing human rights violations and inequities in the context of the green transition. This collaboration aims to empower Indigenous communities, particularly Wayúu women in La Guajira, by equipping them with the knowledge and tools to understand and address actual and potential social and environmental harms arising from extractivism and large-scale renewable energy projects on their territories. The initiative focuses on empowering Wayúu women to strengthen their territorial agenda and promote inclusive energy transition processes by government and companies that prioritize the protection of their rights.

At the heart of this work is a commitment to defending territorial rights through a gendered and intersectional approach. Oxfam and FMW have partnered with ethno-educational institutions to enhance community understanding and participation. FMW’s core focus on political education has helped women and Indigenous communities better understand their rights, supported by training programs and technical advice from allies such as the United Nations, the EU, and international NGOs, including Oxfam. These collaborations have bolstered FMW’s capacities in research, analysis, and case documentation. This included the creation of a brief documentation highlighting the situation in La Guajira and the impacts of El Cerrejón. The video can be viewed [here](#).

The Oxfam JET funding initiative successfully supported the strengthening of Indigenous women’s organizations, particularly in their efforts to safeguard territories and defend their

⁹ Locking in sustainable pathways: just transition, wind energy and local communities in La Guajira, Colombia | SEI

¹⁰ Unique 750 MW Solar–AgroFood combination project in Partnership with Wayúu Indigenous communities

¹¹ Declaration of Indigenous Peoples’ Participants in the Conference on Indigenous Peoples and the Just Transition

rights. Territorial meetings and direct dialogues were essential to this process, providing critical insights into the impacts of mining and energy projects on the Wayúu's socio-cultural dynamics and territorial integrity. These engagements revealed the significant challenges faced by the communities, such as limited access to water, food, and infrastructure, which restrict community participation and exacerbate power imbalances in negotiations with corporate actors. The lack of systematic documentation of community perspectives further limits advocacy efforts and just approaches by companies.

Despite these challenges, aligning with women's territorial agendas has proven effective through significantly enhancing localized advocacy, according to local staff and partners. The JET project systematized Oxfam's collaboration with FMW, advancing a community-driven strategy that integrates political rights training, community research, and practical actions to safeguard rights. This approach has strengthened community capacities to defend cultural, territorial, and environmental rights and generated evidence for advocacy at national and international levels.



JET project also served as a unifying framework, connecting various energy transition initiatives in La Guajira, including the Teletón project for transformative education, the Danish International Development Agency's (Danida) project for women's empowerment, and the Fair Finance project, which mapped business actors in the Wayúu territory. This integration not only increased the project's impact but also added significant value by fostering synergy among complementary initiatives.

A follow-up project is currently underway, focused on mapping companies operating within Wayúu territory and evaluating their practices to build a strong foundation for advocacy efforts. This phase also seeks to expand community training initiatives, further strengthening local capacities to defend their rights and actively participate in shaping a just and inclusive energy future for the region.



MENA

PALESTINE, LEBANON, SYRIA

INCREASING CAPACITIES OF FEMINIST AND CLIMATE ACTIVISTS ON LOCALLY LED JET ADVOCACY IN THE MENA REGION

Background

Climate change is often referred to as a “threat multiplier” because it exacerbates existing vulnerabilities and strains resource-limited systems. It intensifies challenges such as political instability, displacement, poverty, food insecurity, loss of livelihoods, and unemployment. The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region is particularly dependent on climate-sensitive agriculture for food security and livelihood, yet it is one of the world’s most water-scarce and drought-prone regions¹².

The MENA region's vulnerability is further heightened by ongoing political instability, protracted conflicts, and, in the case of the Occupied Palestine Territory (OPT), the war on Gaza. Political unrest and economic fragility undermine governance and severely limit the ability to implement sustainable energy solutions. In conflict zones such as Syria and OPT, infrastructure destruction, resource restrictions, and systemic violence exacerbate energy insecurity, leaving millions without access to reliable electricity. Meanwhile, in countries like Lebanon, governance issues further impede progress toward effective energy transitions.

Compounding these challenges is the region's heavy reliance on fossil fuels. As a major exporter and a key player in the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), many MENA countries depend on fossil fuel revenues while grappling with the urgent need to transition to cleaner energy¹³. While there has been significant investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency initiatives, fossil fuel exports remain a cornerstone of many economies in the region.

The electrification process across OPT, Lebanon, and Syria underscores the complex interplay between political fragility, resource scarcity, and renewable energy transitions.

In OPT, energy dependency has long been a critical challenge, with most electricity imported from Israel. Before the escalation of the ongoing conflict, renewable energy initiatives such as small-scale solar projects had started to provide crucial support for essential services like hospitals, schools, and community facilities. These efforts offered a lifeline to communities suffering from frequent power outages, particularly in Gaza, where residents often received as little as four hours of electricity per day¹⁴.

¹² Climate Change in the Middle East and North Africa: Mitigating Vulnerabilities and Designing Effective Policies

¹³ OPEC: “The MENA Region in the International Arena”

¹⁴ In Gaza, We Get Four Hours of Electricity a Day — If We’re Lucky | Human Rights Watch

However, the war on Gaza has devastated these fragile advancements, exacerbating the already dire energy situation. Infrastructure destruction, heightened resource restrictions, and widespread displacement have left communities in acute vulnerability. Many solar energy projects have been damaged or rendered inaccessible, further isolating residents who depend on these systems for basic survival needs. As the humanitarian catastrophe deepens, the pursuit of an equitable and sustainable energy future in OPT faces unprecedented challenges.

In Syria, over a decade of conflict has devastated the country's energy infrastructure, leaving much of the population without consistent access to electricity. The destruction of power grids, combined with limited investment in renewable energy, forces many communities to rely on expensive and polluting diesel generators. In rural areas, small-scale solar projects initiated by NGOs and international organizations provide power for critical services such as water pumping and medical care. However, these efforts face immense challenges, due to logistical constraints, funding limitations and the emerging insecurity after the fall of the Assad Regime in December 2024.

To address fiscal pressures, governments across the MENA region have begun phasing out fossil fuel subsidies in an effort to reduce financial strain and encourage energy efficiency. However, this policy shift has led to significant price increases, particularly in countries lacking food and water sovereignty, further exacerbating economic strain and triggering widespread protests and political unrest.

Initiatives

Oxfam's Regional Platform in MENA has been actively addressing the intersections of climate, gender, water, food, and energy, with a focus on energy poverty, which disproportionately affects women and vulnerable populations. Collaborating with the Arab Feminist NGOs Network, Oxfam has supported capacity-building and networking on climate and gender issues. JET working group within this network focuses on energy access, the informal sector, and the economic impact on women.

Oxfam also coordinated with Kvinna till Kvinna to organize webinars exploring the intersection of climate change and gender in the energy sector. These efforts amplified MENA feminist voices at COP27 and strengthened their advocacy for a just energy transition. Oxfam further contributed by enhancing knowledge on JET from a feminist perspective, conducting workshops to promote inclusive dialogue on energy transition.

At the national level, Oxfam engaged stakeholders in reviewing Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) to integrate equitable transition principles. Regionally, Oxfam worked with Arab feminist groups and partners to develop a JET pilot project and establish a regional working group.

Oxfam also initiated a collaborative effort to generate community-level JET ideas, focusing on decolonizing approaches to prioritize marginalized voices. While funding constraints prevented piloting, this groundwork helped mobilize resources through green financial funds.

These initiatives promote equitable partnerships, challenge dominant narratives, and amplify diverse voices within the Just Energy Transition (JET) discourse. Oxfam's efforts aim to drive meaningful action from national and regional stakeholders, including the League of Arab States, ministries of energy, and Gulf countries, ensuring that renewable energy targets are accompanied by systemic changes to enable a truly just transition.

With support from the Global JET, the MENA regional office has also worked to explore how country offices integrate a feminist perspective into their JET initiatives. This effort led to the documentation of three case studies from different countries, each demonstrating the application of a feminist approach to JET. These case studies are available for viewing [here](#) and a brief summary is outlined below:

In the Occupied Palestinian Territory, the transformative impact of access to clean electricity is illustrated through the experience of resident Fadya Al Wahsh. In an interview, she reflects on the profound changes this access has brought to her daily life:

"Living without electricity was more than just an inconvenience for my family and me—it was a daily struggle that defined our existence.

Fadya explains that "the absence of electricity meant that even the most basic household tasks became laborious chores that consumed hours of our precious time." The installation of solar panels in her village has brought profound improvements:

"The arrival of electricity in our home was nothing short of miraculous. It's not just about convenience; it's about reclaiming a sense of dignity and autonomy that was denied to us for so long."

Living near the separation wall and Israeli settlements has placed immense and ongoing strain on Fadya's family. However, the introduction of renewable energy has provided a vital source of relief amid these hardships, offering them a sense of empowerment and hope as they continue to face these challenges.

In Lebanon, JET initiatives focused on the Katarina Rehabilitation Centre, which benefitted from the installation of renewable energy systems. For Ramona, this change was life-altering: "With the new solar power system, my therapy sessions are no longer interrupted by blackouts. It's made a huge difference in my recovery, and I can see the positive change in everyone around me." The reliable energy supply has ensured consistent therapy sessions, empowering Ramona and other patients to pursue recovery with a renewed sense of security and support.

In Syria, clean energy has improved farmers' livelihoods in Deir Salman, a town deeply affected by a decade of drought and conflict. The Syrian drought of 2008 had devastating effects on agricultural regions like Deir Salman, exacerbated by the ongoing conflict that has crippled the country's energy infrastructure. Laila Bourq, a 62-year-old farmer, explains the impact: "The drought has taken a heavy toll on our crops and livelihoods. Without reliable access to water and

energy, our agricultural activities have been severely impacted, threatening our food security and economic stability." Her son, Wael, echoes this sentiment:



"Renewable energy has been a lifesaver for our family. With solar electricity, we don't have to worry about fuel shortages or increasing prices. Our farmlands thrive, and our livelihoods are secure."

Beyond its practical benefits, renewable energy has instilled a sense of resilience and self-reliance within the community. As Deir Salman rebuilds its energy systems, it exemplifies the potential of sustainable development to address intertwined challenges of water scarcity, energy insecurity, and environmental degradation. Laila remains optimistic:

"With renewable energy as our guiding light, we will continue to empower our community and build a brighter tomorrow for generations to come."





SENEGAL

LEVERAGING ADVOCACY AND DATA TO REIMAGINE OIL AND GAS PROFITABILITY

Background

Senegal's energy sector is pivotal to its strategy for sustainable economic growth and its aspiration to become an emerging economy by 2035, as outlined in the Plan Sénégal Émergent (PSE)¹⁵. Despite the complexities posed by recent fossil fuel discoveries, Senegal has made significant strides in renewable energy. Additionally, as of 2022, approximately 75% of the population had access to electricity, with a stark divide between urban areas, where access reaches 97%, and rural regions, where it lags at 55%. This positions Senegal as a leader in sub-Saharan Africa for electricity access¹⁶. However, the challenge of energy poverty remains acute, particularly in rural areas, where expanding access is a key goal under the PSE, which aims for universal access by 2025.

The country's energy mix is undergoing a transformative shift. Heavy fuel oil, which accounted for 70% of electricity generation in 2022, is gradually being supplemented by renewable sources, which now make up 30% of the energy mix¹⁷. This shift is being further propelled by initiatives such as the Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP), launched in June 2023 with the support of international partners, including the EU, UK, Canada, France, and Germany, through which \$2.7 bn funding has been secured. Under the JETP framework, Senegal aims to increase its share of renewable energy to 40% by 2030, exceeding its original target of 35% by 2035. In June 2023, the country, with support from international partners such as the EU, UK, Canada, France, and Germany, launched the Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP), an initiative aimed to enhance efforts towards a low-carbon and resilient energy system¹⁸.

However, the discovery of substantial offshore oil and gas reserves presents a significant dilemma for the country. These fossil fuel resources, particularly the Rufisque Offshore Profond project, offer a potential boom for economic development, energy sovereignty, and reduced dependency on imported fossil fuels. The Senegalese government views the exploitation of these reserves as a crucial opportunity to finance its broader development agenda. Yet, this stands in tension with the country's renewable energy targets and international climate commitments¹⁹ and risks exposing the countries to future environmental harm, falling global price and stranded assets.

¹⁵ Plan Sénégal Émergent

¹⁶ Executive summary – Senegal 2023 – Analysis - IEA

¹⁷ Strong energy foundations support Senegal's ambitious plans to ramp up sustainable economic growth - News - IEA

¹⁸ Senegal 2023 - Energy Policy Review

¹⁹ Rufisque Offshore Profond

Initiatives

The COVID-19 pandemic in Senegal caused significant delays in the commencement of oil and gas projects, prompting governmental authorities and certain civil society actors to reassess the viability and continuation of these initiatives. Furthermore, the Open Oil study on Senegal's stranded assets has intensified the debate surrounding the profitability of the country's oil and gas projects in the current global context of fluctuating energy markets and advancing energy transitions²⁰.

In response to these concerns, Oxfam commissioned a case study on the Rufisque Offshore Profond project to update a report initially produced in January 2019. This updated analysis incorporates the evolving context and newly available data, expanding beyond Rufisque Offshore Profond to include comparative analyses of the Sangomar and Grand Tortue Ahmeyim contracts. By utilizing secondary data from additional reports, the revision aims to provide a more comprehensive evaluation of the financial viability of Senegal's oil projects. The updated financial model projects the potential economic benefits and fiscal contributions of these projects over their operational life, grounded in applicable Senegalese legislation and the publicly disclosed contract governing Rufisque Offshore Profond. Through this model, various oil and gas price scenarios are explored, based on medium- and long-term projections from the International Energy Agency (IEA).

These scenarios allow for an assessment of different possible trajectories for price declines as global demand is expected to decrease due to the global shift away from fossil fuels. This is compared to a business-as-usual projection that assumes the continuation of current energy policies, potentially leading to a 2.5°C increase in global average temperatures.

The provisional report²¹ has been made available and is currently under review by the technical services of the Senegalese government. Prior to this stage, it underwent evaluation by key stakeholders, including Total Energies, the Natural Resource Governance Institute, the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) Senegal, Action pour la Justice Environnementale, and Publish What You Pay (PWYP), alongside other partners within the Oxfam confederation.

The conclusions of the study were presented at several high-level forums, including the PWYP Africa Conference and the EITI Global Summit held in Dakar in June 2024, as well as the African Climate Summit in Nairobi in September 2024.



20 SENEGAL'S PETROLEUM FUTURE OR A STRANDED ASSET RISK? | Oxfam

21 Voies et voix de transition énergétique au Sénégal, Oxfam Sénégal, September 2024

Looking ahead, the initiative aims to extend its impact through a series of targeted actions. These include the creation of communication materials to raise awareness about the study's findings and the establishment of a multi-stakeholder group composed of key actors to monitor the JETP and influence the State's investment plans for a fair and equitable energy transition.

These forthcoming activities will build upon the conclusions and recommendations of the Rufisque Offshore study, focusing on two key regions: Grande Côte and Petite Côte, where major oil and gas projects are currently operating. In collaboration with initiatives such as the *Ford Climate Media Collaborative* and the *African Activists for Climate Justice*, the *Senegalese Network of Climate Actors* has been established to spearhead these efforts, further increasing the impact of these initiatives by fostering greater awareness and engagement among relevant stakeholders. Through this network, efforts will be amplified to ensure the study's findings contribute to informed, equitable, and sustainable decision-making in Senegal's energy sector.



UGANDA

JUST ENERGY TRANSITION FOR REFUGEES AND HOST COMMUNITIES IN WEST NILE

Background

As of September 2023, Uganda hosts approximately 1.54 million refugees, primarily from South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Burundi. These refugees are predominantly settled in northern and western regions, with major settlements in areas like Bidi Bidi, Imvepi, and Rhino Camp. An additional 141,000 refugees reside in Kampala, the capital²².

Uganda's energy system is overwhelmingly dependent on biomass, such as firewood and charcoal, which accounts for over 90% of household energy consumption. This reliance is particularly acute in refugee settlements, where firewood is essential for cooking and construction. In places like Bidi Bidi and Imvepi, this dependence has led to severe deforestation, environmental degradation, and increased tensions between refugees and host communities over dwindling resources²³. The smoke generated by wood fuel usage has also contributed to significant health risks, including respiratory illnesses, further exacerbating the vulnerability of these populations. The scarcity of affordable cooking fuel compounds these challenges, as refugees and host communities alike face high charcoal prices and diminishing access to firewood. Additionally, refugees have limited income-generating opportunities, making it even harder to secure basic energy needs, which heightens their economic vulnerability.

To address these issues, the Ugandan Government has committed to advancing a green transition agenda focused on renewable energy and clean cooking solutions. (ref) Solar energy has become a cornerstone of this effort, particularly in off-grid rural areas and refugee settlements. Initiatives such as the Oxfam Global JET funding program aim to reduce dependence on biomass by introducing sustainable alternatives, including solar energy systems, briquettes, and clean cookstoves. These interventions not only aim to mitigate health risks from smoke inhalation but also to reduce deforestation and ease tensions over resource scarcity.

Despite these efforts, significant barriers remain. Financial limitations, inadequate infrastructure, and slow adoption of renewable technologies hinder progress. Refugee settlements, which are among the areas most in need, remain underserved, limiting the impact of renewable energy solutions. Furthermore, the lack of technical capacity in - and lack of a supportive government financial incentive and policy framework for - local communities present challenges for the effective implementation and long-term maintenance of green energy projects.

²² UNHCR Uganda Refugee Statistics September 2023

²³ World Bank Rapid Assessment of Natural Resource Degradation in Refugee Impacted Areas in Northern Uganda

Initiatives

In 2022, Oxfam, in collaboration with local and international partners such as LUGHI, YSAT, URDMC, UNHCR, and local governments, and with funding from Danida, launched a project in the West Nile region of Uganda to address the region's energy challenges, resource scarcity and economic hardship. The project trained approximately 500 young people—70% of whom were refugees and 30% from host communities—in vocational green skills. 100 of these 500 received specific training in producing briquettes from plant residues and constructing energy-efficient stoves.

In addition, Oxfam and its partners formed three youth groups, comprising 75 members (31 female, 44 male). These groups were provided with startup kits which allowed them to apply their new expertise, fostering entrepreneurial opportunities and promoting sustainable community development. However, despite the training of 500 individuals, only 75 received the necessary startup kits, underscoring the need for additional resources to expand the program's reach. To address this gap, the Oxfam Uganda and partners aim to procure additional kits in a top-up project to ensure broader access to clean energy for both refugees and host communities.



The project has achieved significant results, particularly in reducing reliance on wood fuel and introducing clean energy solutions for cooking, with women as the primary beneficiaries, according to project monitoring carried out by Oxfam staff and partners. By decreasing the dependence on wood fuel, the initiative has helped mitigate deforestation and alleviated the burden on women, who previously had to travel long distances in search of firewood. The introduction of energy-efficient stoves and briquettes has provided sustainable and practical alternatives, creating a cleaner and more efficient cooking environment. These changes have been widely praised by the community, with residents reporting notable health improvements due to reduced smoke exposure according to field reports by local Oxfam staff

Additionally, the adoption of briquettes, energy-efficient stoves, and solar-powered lighting has contributed to reductions in carbon emissions by replacing carbon-intensive lamps, with measurable impacts observed within three to six months. Beyond environmental and health benefits, the initiative has also fostered economic opportunities through the production and sale of briquettes and stoves, empowering local communities. Furthermore, it has integrated climate justice into educational curricula at training institutions, ensuring that the principles of sustainability and equity are embedded in future development efforts.



PHILIPPINES

Strengthening Women's Economic Empowerment and Just Energy Transitions for Community and Climate Resilience by Expanding its Reach (SWEETER)

Background

The Philippines is often recognized for its progressive policies aimed at advancing renewable energy development and addressing climate change. Moreover, the country is on track to meet the target of achieving universal electrification by 2022, as set out in the *Philippine Development Plan* (2017-2022), as the household electrification rate passed 90% in 2016²⁴.

The cornerstone of its renewable energy framework is the *Renewable Energy Act (2008)*, which was designed to accelerate the development of the country's RE resources by encouraging private sector investment and providing fiscal incentives to boost renewable energy generation²⁵. The act is supported by the *National Renewable Energy Program*, which serves as the strategic roadmap for achieving energy security and increasing energy access from 2020 to 2040, outlining targets to increase RE's share in the energy mix²⁶. As of 2022, the Philippines' national energy mix remained heavily reliant on coal (30.4%) and oil (31.6%), with wind and solar energy combined accounting for only 14.7%.²⁷

At the local level, governance structures play a critical role in the renewable energy transition. In 2018, the *Mandanas-Garcia Ruling* by the Supreme Court significantly increased the financial resources allocated to local governments, giving them greater capacity to support energy-related planning and investments²⁸. Additionally, the Microgrid Systems Act of 2022 mandated local governments to focus on electrification efforts in underserved and remote areas through microgrid solutions, particularly benefiting rural and island communities where traditional grid extension is impractical²⁹.

Efforts to promote local participation in the renewable energy transition have been bolstered by initiatives such as the *Joint Memorandum Circular of 2020*, which requires local governments to establish Energy Sector Committees under their Local Development Councils to actively engage in energy transition efforts, which is reflected in the existing JET project outlined below³⁰.

²⁴ Energy system of Philippines

²⁵ Renewable Energy Act of 2008

²⁶ National Renewable Energy Program

²⁷ Philippines Energy Mix

²⁸ Mandanas-Garcia Ruling (2018)

²⁹ Microgrid Systems Act of (2022)

³⁰ JOINT MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 1 SERIES OF 2020. (dbm.gov.ph)

Yet, there are still some remaining challenges related to governance and policy direction as outlined in a recent Oxfam study³¹, which emphasise the need for community-based solutions. Some examples are: a) There are about 1 million households in the Philippines which still doesn't have electricity, while there are communities that are also still underserved with power only lasting 4-6 hours daily, b) Despite the country's comprehensive policies on renewable energy, implementation remains inefficient due to institutional capacity constraints.

Initiatives

The Oxfam Global Funding JET initiative enabled the launch of the SWEETER initiative, which evolved from the Strengthening Women's Economic Empowerment and Just Energy Transitions for Community Climate Resilience (SWEET). The project was implemented by SIKAT, which provided a community-based renewable energy system managed by women-led Self-Help Groups in Barangay Hilabaan, an off-grid island community in Eastern Samar. Previously, residents—primarily fisherfolk—relied on diesel generators for only four hours of electricity each day.

The SWEETER project, implemented with Reboot PH, successfully installed a hybrid solar energy system in two key locations in Barangay Malaya, Labo, Camarines Norte: the cooperative's processing office and their farm. To ensure the system's effective use and sustainability, complementary training sessions were conducted on renewable energy fundamentals, solar power system maintenance, social enterprise development, and gender-responsive organizational management. Women participants received additional training in maintenance and policy development, which not only empowered them economically by enabling income generation but also fostered collaboration in producing marketable goods, further enhancing the cooperative's productivity.



As a result, the cooperative established policies to reinvest the savings generated from eliminating electricity costs through solar panel usage, as well as earnings from cash-for-work farmland development initiatives, into a variety of economic programs, enhancing the cooperative's financial independence and economic resilience.

Key stakeholders included the Malaya Farmers Agriculture Cooperative, the women's group Samahan ng Kababaihan ng Brgy. Malaya, and the Malaya Young Farmers Association. Local and municipal governments also played a pivotal role in the project's success and the local government have financially committed from the government's budget to contribute to another community based renewable energy installation in the barangay. These commitments include the installation of solar panels for a public government building, construction of an access road leading to the community, contributions toward the cooperative's processing office, and the

³¹ I-JET Philippines Project Baseline and Scoping Study, Oxfam 2024

establishment of a municipal JET Council. Maria Cielo Delios, a member of the community-led energy system, highlights that:



“Now, we can use the money that we would have spent on electricity on other needs. Plus, we can produce various products that we can sell at the market. We really dream of having a recognised product that is a project of the women in the community.”

This initiative increased the agency of women in agriculture, as they took on roles as gender-responsive, community-based RE system managers. Judy Ann Limbo, a contributor to the RE system, shares:

“You can’t do it alone. It’s better to work together. Back when I wasn’t part of this group, it seemed like a woman’s place was only at home, cooking and doing household chores. But it’s different when you’re involved in an organisation like this. Your knowledge grows, and you realise that women can do what others can do too.”

Similarly, Maria describes the process as empowering, noting that “it is inspiring to be surrounded by people who persevere despite life’s challenges.”

Now powering 40 households, the system is funded by small monthly fees (1–3 euros) paid by the community. Access to renewable energy has strengthened the community’s ability to produce



higher-quality goods for market sale, improving their livelihoods and reducing the financial burden of energy costs. Additionally, the project influenced the local government to incorporate RE systems into development plans.

The project also focused on engaging youth in agriculture through knowledge sharing on sustainable practices and advocacy. Jonalyn Pureza explains, “The youth are more encouraged

when they see that we are achieving something. That is why we encourage them by showing that we have this project, and we are developing this area.” She underscores that:

“Through training and seminars, everyone has come to understand the importance of farming. Right now, our dream is to grow in number so that we can further develop our farms and projects, benefiting everyone involved.”

TL Naing echoes this sentiment, stressing that “we are aware that the agricultural sector faces significant challenges. That’s why it’s a big challenge to encourage the youth to become part of such a vulnerable sector. We need to show them that farming is a respectable and important job.”

Watch the video on the impacts of this initiative [here](#).



KENYA

Capacity Building of Civil Society and Communities to Raise Awareness and Influence Government JET Policies and Plans to Promote Access to Clean and Sustainable Energy

Background

Kenya is making significant strides toward a low-carbon development pathway, with 87.42% of its energy now generated from renewable sources such as hydro, wind, solar, geothermal, bioenergy, and thermal power³². However, while 76.5% of the population has electricity access, there remains a stark divide between urban areas, where 98% of the population is connected, and rural areas, where only 67% have access to electricity³³. Closing this gap is essential for ensuring that all Kenyans benefit equally from the country's green transition. Despite these advances, the transition raises concerns about equity. Large-scale renewable energy projects, like hydropower, have been criticized for their social and environmental impacts, particularly regarding the displacement of Indigenous communities and human rights violations. These issues highlight the importance of ensuring that the energy transition in Kenya adheres to principles of justice and protects workers and communities' rights. Without careful attention to these concerns, the transition may run roughshod over the rights of the very communities that are most vulnerable to climate change and energy poverty causing social and environmental harm. Kenya's low-income populations, predominantly employed in the informal sector, face the greatest risks from the energy transition as these groups, which account for approximately 80% of the population, rely heavily on natural resources for their livelihoods which are in turn affected by climatic change³⁴. Additionally, many economic sectors, such as agriculture and small-scale manufacturing, are energy-intensive and currently depend on fossil fuels. Therefore, a just transition that addresses social, economic, and environmental issues simultaneously is crucial to ensure that these communities are not left behind as the country moves toward cleaner energy.

Furthermore, Kenya's extractive industries, including oil, titanium, and coal, present both opportunities and challenges in the green transition. On one hand, these resources have the potential to drive economic development and finance clean energy projects. On the other hand, issues related to governance, transparency, and environmental protection persist, raising concerns about how well the sector can support sustainable development. Effective management and regulation of the extractive industries will be key to ensuring that they contribute positively to Kenya's net-zero goals without exacerbating social or environmental inequities.

³² EPRA Statistics Report - January - December 2023.pdf

³³ Access to electricity, Kenya | Data

³⁴ Executive Summary Just Transitions in Kenya's Low Carbon Economy Development Path

Initiatives

In 2023 Oxfam in Kenya's Natural Resources team participated in an Oxfam wide cross-national scoping study spanning 13 countries, offering vital insights into Kenya's energy landscape and shaping future programmatic strategies.

Subsequently the Oxfam Global Funding Initiative supported Oxfam in Kenya to conduct an additional in-depth JET Scoping Study to assess the country's potential to shift toward clean energy. The study uncovered several key findings, highlighting both challenges and opportunities in Kenya's energy transition. The study revealed that firewood and charcoal remain the dominant cooking fuels in rural Kenya, causing severe health, safety, and environmental impacts. Women face heightened risks, including respiratory diseases, fire-related accidents, and sexual harassment while collecting firewood. The scarcity of firewood has also commercialized charcoal, particularly in Kilifi and Kwale counties, where it serves as a vital income source. Reluctance to adopt cleaner energy alternatives persists due to financial instability, resistance to change rooted in cultural norms, and limited government resources. Significant knowledge gaps at both institutional and community levels, along with a lack of technical expertise, further hinder progress. Governance issues, including corruption and mismanagement of funds, exacerbate these challenges, while conservative norms restrict women's participation in energy decision-making. Despite existing policies and frameworks, governance gaps continue to obstruct a just energy transition. However, CSOs and private sector actors have made strides in engaging communities, addressing needs, and bridging knowledge gaps. Nonetheless, capacity-building within government institutions remains crucial.



Community outreach and capacity-building workshops were another key focus of the JET initiative with meetings held in several counties to raise awareness about JET, Kenya's energy landscape, and regulatory frameworks such as the *2023 Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA)*. These efforts successfully enhanced stakeholder engagement, bringing together a diverse range of stakeholders, including CSOs, Community-Based Organizations, the Turkana Extractive Consortium, and Community Land Management Committee.

Building on these efforts to raise awareness, Oxfam Kenya also distributed the *Community Engagement Guide for Energy Projects* in both English and Kiswahili, equipping workshop participants.

These capacity-building and awareness-raising workshops also showcased the practical benefits of the Solvatten Solar Safe Water technology, a project that has been launched in collaboration with Solvatten AB, which is a Swedish Company producing equipment for solar power. This technology is a portable solar-powered water purification device, which harnesses solar energy for heating and ultraviolet purification, providing a sustainable solution for accessing clean water. So far, Solvatten has been piloted in three communities and successfully addressed critical challenges such as waterborne diseases and provides a sustainable alternative by reducing reliance on firewood. John Wato, Head of Mwabilabii Village underscores that,

“The device has significantly reduced waterborne diseases, as our local dispensary has observed a notable decline in such cases.”

In Kwale County, Mariam, a community member, received a Solvatten device, which benefitted her in numerous ways:

“In the 10 months that I have used the device, it has greatly improved my quality of life. It cleans the water, making it safe to drink. I have been able to reduce the amount of firewood I use, and my children no longer cough.”



Efforts are now focused on scaling up the initiative, with the delivery of 1,400 Solvatten units expected by the end of 2024 for distribution to additional communities. To support this expansion, a brief documentary highlighting the positive impact of Solvatten has been produced, which can be watched [here](#).



GHANA

Balancing Resources and Rights: Oxfam's Multidimensional Review of Ghana's Critical Minerals Sector

Background

Ghana is positioning itself as a key contributor to the global green transition, leveraging its rich reserves of critical minerals and its commitment to advancing clean cooking solutions. These dual efforts underscore the country's potential to address global climate goals while fostering sustainable development domestically. However, this transition must carefully balance opportunities for economic growth while ensuring equity, environmental protection, and social inclusion.

The discovery of lithium in commercial quantities has placed Ghana at the forefront of the critical minerals supply chain, essential for renewable energy technologies such as electric vehicle batteries and grid storage. With the granting of a mining lease to Barari DV Ghana Limited, Ghana is equipped to become a global supplier of lithium by 2025³⁵. In addition to lithium, the country holds reserves of manganese, bauxite, iron ore, silica, and graphite—resources vital for a low-carbon future.

While this mineral wealth offers economic and geopolitical advantages, it also brings substantial challenges. Experts caution against the "second gold curse," referencing the environmental degradation, resource mismanagement, and social inequities associated with the country's gold mining sector. Without safeguards, mining for critical minerals could replicate these harms, including water contamination, deforestation, and human rights violations. Responsible governance will be crucial to ensuring that the benefits of critical mineral extraction are shared equitably and do not come at the expense of local communities.

The Ewoyaa Lithium Project is emblematic of Ghana's potential in this sector. Led by Australian company Atlantic Lithium, with investment from Piedmont Lithium and Ghana's Minerals Income Investment Fund, this flagship initiative aims to produce 2.7 million tonnes of spodumene concentrate annually over a 12-year period³⁶. However, ensuring that projects like Ewoyaa are implemented responsibly is essential, not only for sustainable economic growth but also for fostering community trust and mitigating the risks historically associated with extractive industries.

³⁵ Ghana Critical Minerals Market

³⁶ EW0YAA, GHANA — Atlantic Lithium Ltd

While Ghana's critical minerals contribute to global green energy solutions, the country is simultaneously addressing domestic energy challenges through clean cooking initiatives. Traditional biomass-based cooking methods, still widespread in rural areas, have severe environmental and health consequences, including deforestation, indoor air pollution, and related illnesses, particularly among women and children. Transitioning to cleaner technologies, such as improved cookstoves and electric cooking solutions, represents an integral part of Ghana's green transition.

Initiatives

Currently, Oxfam Ghana are carrying out studies on transitional minerals extraction and responsible business conduct with support from Oxfam Denmark and Oxfam Novib and in cooperation with two local partners: African Centre for Energy Policy and Friends of the Nation. The studies focus on analysing relevant policies and legal frameworks for renewable energy and critical minerals, comparing them with international standards to identify gaps and inconsistencies. The scope includes evaluating the impacts of mining on Indigenous territories, protected areas, and local communities, as well as addressing transparency in emissions reporting and the protection of human rights defenders. Thereby, the studies aim to highlight risks to the environment and fiscal revenues while ensuring the rights of local communities are respected.

Prior to this, Oxfam Ghana with support from Oxfam US, conducted a case study on the social and environmental risks of lithium mining in Ghana. It focused on due diligence obligations for private companies, particularly in respecting human rights, including those of women, children, and labourers. It also emphasized the importance of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) for affected communities. This collaborative approach aims to generate a comprehensive understanding of the critical minerals sector as well as evidence that can be used for influencing work.



BANGLADESH

Renewable Energy Pathways for Bangladesh's Ready-Made Garment Sector and Marginalized Communities

Background

Bangladesh, recognized among the most climate-vulnerable nations globally and ranked seventh in the 2021 Global Climate Risk Index, simultaneously faces an urgent need for a Just Energy Transition³⁷. Despite ambitious goals for industrial growth and economic development, Bangladesh's energy landscape is largely dominated by fossil fuels, with coal and natural gas as primary sources. This reliance not only impacts the country's environmental health but also contributes to its position as a significant emitter, despite its relatively small share of global emissions. This paradox leaves Bangladesh shouldering considerable environmental costs while consumer nations primarily reap the economic benefits.

The energy-intensive ready-made garment (RMG) sector—Bangladesh's most significant export industry and the second largest globally—drives much of this demand for fossil fuel-based energy³⁸. Representing over 81 percent of the nation's export earnings and employing 4.2 million people, the RMG sector's economic importance is unquestionable³⁹. Yet, its reliance on unsustainable energy sources amplifies environmental degradation, contributing to climate vulnerability domestically and globally. Recognizing this, industry stakeholders, including the RMG Sustainability Council, are working alongside environmental advocates and labour organizations to push for policies that improve both environmental standards and social performance within the sector.

The government's JET framework in Bangladesh seeks to address not only the environmental impacts of fossil fuel dependence but also to combat the socioeconomic inequalities exacerbated by climate change. Natural disasters in Bangladesh have already displaced over 4 million people as of 2019, and it is estimated that more than 35 million residents in coastal areas may be forced to migrate by 2050⁴⁰. This rural migration rate has contributed to a significant portion of this workforce moving into the RMG sector, where many low-income women are drawn by the promise of higher wages.

³⁷ Climate Risk Screening System for Mainstreaming Adaptation into Bangladesh's National Development Budgeting

³⁸ Top Garment Export Countries: A Comprehensive Analysis

³⁹ Readymade Garment (Export) - Bangladesh Labour Foundation

⁴⁰ Climate change and migration impacts on cities: Lessons from Bangladesh - ScienceDirect

Initiatives

Oxfam's JET initiatives in Bangladesh aim to transform industrial and governmental narratives around renewable energy, emphasizing its potential to reshape the country's energy landscape. A significant focus of the JET program is on integrating renewable energy into Bangladesh's RMG sector, which is both a key economic driver and a substantial contributor to fossil fuel-based emissions. To achieve this, the program combines capacity-building workshops, advocacy, and research to promote renewable energy adoption while addressing social justice and sustainability challenges.

Central to this approach are capacity-building workshops designed to educate RMG sector workers and representatives about the feasibility and advantages of renewable energy. These workshops aim to make renewable energy accessible and viable for industries while simultaneously promoting worker rights, skill development, and community-centred energy solutions. For instance, the workshop on *Just Energy Transition: Prospects in the Apparel Industry*, brought together factory owners, sustainability officers, government representatives, financial institutions, and other stakeholders to discuss the economic, environmental, and social benefits of transitioning to renewable energy. Participants explored practical solutions for overcoming challenges and envisioned a sustainable and competitive future for the sector.



The initiative also includes ground-level workshops engaging RMG sector workers directly. These sessions provide workers with a platform to voice their concerns and experiences regarding the energy transition, ensuring their perspectives inform the broader dialogue on sustainability and equity within the sector.

Beyond the RMG sector, Oxfam's and partners' JET initiative addresses the social justice dimensions of climate vulnerability, particularly for marginalized populations in Bangladesh. Communities from geographically and economically disadvantaged areas often migrate to urban centres for employment in sectors like RMG, where working conditions are exploitative and environmentally unsustainable. To combat these systemic challenges, Oxfam's JET program fosters alliances with stakeholders, advocating for the integration of JET principles into policy and industrial practices as well as demands for global accountability for labour rights and improved conditions.

Oxfam's commitment extends further through its ongoing study on the impact of energy transitions on workers, identifying strategies to mitigate potential negative outcomes such as social protection and new job opportunities. This research complements the Oxfam Bangladesh program's broader efforts to tackle challenges such as limited industry engagement, high costs and limited availability of green technologies, insufficient policy support for industrial transitions, and the lack of integration between energy transition efforts and human rights concerns.



MALAWI

Driving Energy Reforms through Advocacy, Community Engagement, and Policy Research

Background

Malawi's energy sector is characterized by a heavy reliance on biomass and limited access to electricity. Biomass, primarily in the form of firewood and charcoal, accounts for approximately 86% of the country's total energy consumption⁴¹. This dependence has led to widespread deforestation and environmental degradation, as well as significant health risks due to indoor air pollution, particularly affecting women and children in rural areas.

Electricity constitutes about 3% of Malawi's total energy consumption. Access to electricity remains a critical challenge, with only about 11% of the population connected to the grid. This figure drops drastically in rural areas, where just 4% of households have access to electricity, compared to 42% in urban areas⁴² (As of 2016). The low electrification rate limits economic opportunities and access to essential services for the majority of the population, particularly in remote and underserved regions.

To address these challenges, Malawi has developed a comprehensive energy policy framework. The *Malawi Renewable Energy Strategy* outlines ambitious goals to achieve universal access to renewable electricity and a sustainable bioenergy sector by 2030. This strategy is complemented by the *National Energy Policy* and the *National Electrification Strategy*, which provide roadmaps for diversifying the energy mix and expanding electricity access, particularly in rural areas. The government has also implemented the *Independent Power Producers Framework* and the *Mini Grids Regulatory Framework* to encourage private sector participation and foster the development of decentralized energy solutions, which are critical for reaching remote communities where grid expansion is inaccessible.

Despite these efforts, Malawi's progress toward universal energy access has been slow, hindered by financial constraints, limited technical capacity, and the dispersed nature of its rural population. However, ongoing initiatives, particularly in renewable energy and mini-grid development, signal potential for a transformative shift in the country's energy landscape. These efforts are crucial for reducing dependence on biomass, enhancing energy equity, and promoting sustainable development in Malawi.

⁴¹ STATISTICS – Energy

⁴² Malawi - SEforALL Africa Hub

Initiatives

A comprehensive range of initiatives have been undertaken by Oxfam Malawi and allies with the aim to address structural challenges in the energy sector while fostering inclusivity, accountability, and sustainability. The initiatives are grounded in awareness-raising, policy influence, and the piloting of practical clean energy solutions to ensure both immediate and long-term impacts.



A key component of these efforts has been the demonstration and piloting of clean energy technologies. Demonstrative activities have showcased the socio-economic and environmental benefits of adopting clean energy solutions, raising awareness among communities and stakeholders. Pilot projects, including the introduction of improved cookstoves, have been integrated into Oxfam's Just Economies programming to highlight the productive potential of clean energy technologies in enhancing livelihoods and addressing energy poverty. In this regard, community sensitization and capacity building were also strengthened. Targeted efforts have been directed at educating communities about energy sector policies and legislative frameworks, thereby equipping them with the knowledge necessary to engage effectively in energy-related governance processes.

Another significant aspect of these initiatives has involved fostering engagements between communities and policymakers. Structured dialogues have facilitated direct interactions between grassroots actors and key decision-makers, including representatives from the Ministry of Energy. These engagements have ensured that community perspectives inform policy discussions and decision-making processes. Additionally, such interactions have enhanced government accountability, enabling communities to monitor the implementation of energy sector reforms, rural electrification programs, and national budget allocations to the sector.

Policy advocacy has also emerged as a critical focus area for civil society, aiming to influence the institutional and regulatory landscape of the energy sector to help ensure a just transition. Advocacy efforts have included lobbying for fiscal incentives to make clean energy technologies more accessible, encouraging multilateral development partners and private sector actors to increase investments in the sector, and advocating for the review and modernization of outdated policy and legal instruments.



Enhancing accountability mechanisms within the energy sector has been another priority. CSOs have been supported through capacity-building initiatives, enabling them to function as effective watchdogs. These CSOs are tasked with monitoring the progress of energy sector reforms, tracking the implementation of rural electrification programs, and ensuring that government commitments translate into tangible benefits for marginalized communities.

Finally, policy research has played a crucial role in providing an evidence-based foundation for these initiatives. Studies have focused on key areas such as energy sector reforms and the integration of gender and social inclusion considerations within Malawi's energy policies. These research efforts aim to inform advocacy strategies and guide interventions, ensuring they are grounded in empirical evidence and aligned with best practices.



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