

# Addressing energy poverty

How far have we gone?

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# Our core principles

## People first

Our work with technology is **people-centred**. It concentrates on what matters most to the people with whom we work, respects their rights, and supports their own efforts to improve the quality of their lives.

## A concern for future generations

Practical Action projects aim to be **sustainable** - environmentally, socially, economically and institutionally.

## Working in equal partnership

Poor women and men work hard to find their own solutions to poverty. Practical Action **facilitates** access to information, knowledge and options - to prioritise and choose the way to deal with the problems.

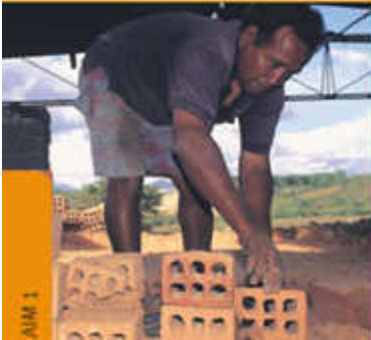
## Respect for diversity

Practical Action **respects** basic human rights regardless of differences in gender, ethnicity, religion or physical ability and values **diversity**.



## Reducing vulnerability

To strengthen the ability of poor women and men to use technology to cope with threats to their livelihoods from natural disasters, environmental degradation and civil conflict.



## Making markets work for poor people

To enable poor women and men to use technologies effectively in systems of production, processing and marketing to build secure livelihoods.



## Improving access to useful services, systems & structures

To improve the access of poor women and men to locally managed infrastructure services.



## Responding to new technologies

To enable poor women and men to assess and respond to the challenges of new technologies, and to develop and adopt applications that improve their livelihoods.



# The Global Challenge



## Billions of women and men lack access to services

- 2.4 billion without access to improved sanitation
- 2 billion people without access to electricity
- 1.5 billion people in inadequate shelter
- 1 billion without access to improved water supply
- 50% of urban waste in developing countries is not collected

## What does that mean for poverty?

- It is a big part of what it means to be poor
- It is a *consequence* of poverty – the result of lacking income, land, power
- It is a *cause* of poverty – reducing productivity, increasing vulnerability, closing options to escape poverty.



**2 billion people without access to electricity**



# Three billion people rely on firewood for cooking



# This is energy poverty

- **Lack of access to energy is a key manifestation of poverty.**
- **Indoor Air Pollution is a result of lack of access to energy.**
- **Energy poverty impacts women and men differently.**
- **It is not a coincidence that poor women make up most of the energy poor.**

# Putting people first means ...



- Start by **understanding** what people know, prefer & aspire to, as well as the challenges they face & resources they have access to.

- Put in place **processes** that allow everyone –women and men- to articulate their point of view & contribute their own special knowledge,
- **Build skills & organisations** that have the long-term capacity to maintain & adapt services.

... ownership, skills &  
community empowerment

**PRACTICAL ACTION**  
technology challenging poverty





# In practice...

- **Research phase (2002-2004) on extent and approaches to mitigate health impacts in poor communities in Kenya, Nepal and Sudan**
- Development and implementation of Participatory Technology Development framework including training and capacity building.
- **Identification, adaptation and promotion of specific cooking and smoke alleviation technologies as well as feasibility for fuel switching and required financial mechanisms.**
- Assessment, further research to adapt technologies and practices and scaling up (2004-2008)

# Working in equal partnership means...

- **Linking stakeholders in the public, private & popular sectors to recognise & maximise the unique contribution of each,**
- **Building open, honest & trustworthy ways of working to maximise impact and share benefits.**

...building on the strengths of all,  
adding value for those in need



# In practice...

## On the user's side:

- Awareness creation on the problem, who is more affected and its negative impacts on health and development with all stakeholders (communities, government agencies, donors).
- Empower communities to adopt interventions to reduce pollution levels considering their specific contexts, practices and support behavioural changes as needed.
- Facilitate establishment of adequate financial mechanisms for users and producers such as micro-credit or revolving funds considering who pays for the improvements and the level of incentives required to encourage demand.

## On the producer's side:

- Ensure mechanisms to increase access to quality and smooth supply of cooking and ventilation technologies.
- Train local entrepreneurs on product manufacturing, promotion strategies, and management.
- Promote the establishment of a system of reliable manufacturers and suppliers.



# In practice...

On the planning and decision-making side:

- Integrated and more co-ordinated inter-sectoral approach
- Promote proper certification and quality control of cooking technologies to ensure better response to the need, increased financial sustainability and durability of the product.
- Incorporate a gender approach when assessing existing domestic fuel use and management practices to ensure developing mechanisms to allow women and men make choices and influence household decisions on fuel use.
- Address policy gaps related to energy access and IAP.

# Respecting diversity means..

- Recognising the different know-how, needs & vulnerabilities of young and old, male & female, able bodied & people with disabilities.
- Celebrating differences & accommodating diverse needs in project design & delivery, processes & products.



the most vulnerable benefit

# In practice...

## INVENTORY OF SMOKE ALLEVIATING TECHNOLOGIES IN NEPAL



## PRACTICAL ACTION NEPAL

Mr. Uttam Dhakal  
Consultant  
March 2007

- Diversity of technology options & sustainable choices (18 options)
- Ensure a proper gender analysis of the problem and the technological solution proposed.
- Promote gender mainstreaming at other levels of energy planning and decision-making.

# Challenges ahead

- **Addressing only the effect (IAP) without seriously considering the cause (lack of energy access) delays the elimination of energy poverty.**
- **Improved energy literacy by the poor is key to empower them to make informed technological choices and become active participants in the design and implementation of energy agendas that respond to their needs.**
- **Addressing energy access requires strong political will to make it a priority within energy policies, budget allocations and international development strategies.**



# Working in partnership is possible at other levels too





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# Practical Action

## participatory planning, design & delivery

