



Independent
Evaluation
Office

United Nations Development Programme

EVALUATION OF UNDP SUPPORT FOR ENERGY ACCESS AND TRANSITION

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CONCLUSION 1.

**PROVIDES IMPORTANT
MULTIFACETED ENERGY
SUPPORT, WITH UNIQUELY
BROAD COUNTRY REACH**

CONCLUSION 2.

**EXPANDED ENERGY
ACCESS IN CONTEXTS THAT
FACE MAJOR HURDLES FOR
ADOPTION AND SCALING**

- Significantly helped countries to create energy enabling frameworks
 - Created and managed projects that prove off-grid clean energy is viable
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- Connected households, businesses, and critical services to a supply of electricity
- Dependent on replication to reach ambitious access and emission avoidance targets – more demonstration than delivery at scale

CONCLUSION 3.
**MORE STRATEGIC, JOINED
UP INTERVENTIONS OVER
A LONGER TIME PERIOD
ARE NEEDED**

- Projects establish the vision and initiate crucial steps towards transformational change
- UNDP engagement in catalytic processes is often cut short
- For example, support for clean cooking is often fragmented, limited in scale and not embedded within a coherent and long-term strategy
- All highly successful renewable energy transition projects had effective **finance** arrangements, benefited from UNDP's project management experience and often convened partnerships in complex institutional environments that may be too risky for others
- Energy efficiency support in Armenia and Egypt illustrates the **technical + financial + political will** ingredients required for transformational change



EXAMPLE 1.

GREEN URBAN LIGHTING FOR MUNICIPALITIES IN ARMENIA

Standard de-risking design with four components:

- i) Energy audits and capacity-building
- ii) Demonstration projects
- iii) Financial & institutional replication mechanisms
- iv) National policies, codes and standards

Success factors:

- Multiple linked projects over a decade
- Each component successful, with financing and replication unusually successful
- Municipalities had good incentives to make EE savings (as they retained the proceeds) and could use an effective linkage with donors for replication



EXAMPLE 2.

IMPROVING THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY OF LIGHTING AND OTHER BUILDING APPLIANCES IN EGYPT

Transformational effect on energy consumption - saving 2GW and US\$2 billion in generation costs

UNDP, GEF energy efficiency project 2000-10 had limited impact due to high electricity subsidies. Subsequent crippling electricity shortage and tariff increases provided strong incentives and political backing for improving energy efficiency

Project interventions to raise awareness, pilot, providing grant finance for piloting and work with government to support the introduction of energy standards and monitoring

Each component was successful but the innovative decision to allow private companies access to 25% grant financing of pilots was important

Businesses found switch to LEDs led to a massive, unexpected reduction in air conditioning electricity consumption – led to big uptake

Public media campaign (Facebook, Cairo underground and prizes) was also very successful. Focus on LEDs at the outset built momentum

UNDP project design and management but also trusted government partner, with the ability to work with a wide range of public and private stakeholders



CONCLUSION 4.

MISSED OPPORTUNITIES FOR KNOWLEDGE SHARING

Energy programming tends to be insular, project based, and country specific, with missed opportunities for replication of best practices and innovative techniques

Reliance on a small cadre of internal energy experts compared to volume of projects

CONCLUSION 5.

**A GROWING NEED TO
SUPPORT PRO-POOR
ENERGY TRANSITIONS**

CONCLUSION 6.

**GEF REMAINS THE
DOMINANT RESOURCE,
INCREASE IN GOVERNMENT
COST SHARES**

- Current support largely additional, greater urgency, focus and scale is required for transitional
 - Relevant services across governance, energy, climate and poverty portfolios
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- Trusted provider of strong energy-environment offer
- Adds to 'projectization', which limits country office ability to offer long-term expertise

CONCLUSION 7.

GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT NOT SUFFICIENTLY CONSIDERED

- Projects have increased women's access to energy and clean cooking technologies
- The best examples treat energy as necessary but not sufficient for women's empowerment
- Limited assessment of gender discrimination, at household, business and institutional levels



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