GOGLA Industry Opinion on Tracking Energy Access

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Background

Before being able to track how many (additional) people have access to energy, one needs to define what "access to energy" means. For a long time, energy access was measured in binary categories: either a household was connected to the electric grid and thus had energy access; or it was not connected and would thus fall into the category "no energy access". This approach misses the fact that many households that are connected to the grid still do not have sufficient energy available to run basic appliances due to poor quality of services. On the other hand, households may have access through emerging off-grid approaches, including pico solar, household systems, access to a local grid linked to a generator or a solar mini-grid. The binary approach clearly fell short of capturing the realities of many households and thus providing useful feedback for policymakers and enterprise.

To address the needs of a broad set of stakeholders and to allow a comprehensive tracking of their goal of universal energy access by 2030, the SE4All program has developed a global tracking framework. To capture electricity access, five tiers of access have been proposed: households that have sufficient electricity for task lighting and phone charging (for example through a portable solar lantern) fall into tier 1; households with general lighting and a TV as well as a fan (if needed) fall into tier 2; anything above falls into categories 3-5, with five being the equivalent of full electricity access.

Global Tracking Framework Tiers to Count Electricity Access

Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3	Tier 4	Tier 5
Task lighting and phone charging	General lighting, and TV, and fan	Tier 2 and any low power appliances	Tier 3 and any medium power appliances	Tier 4 and any high power appliances

(Source: SE4All Global Tracking framework)

GOGLA Position

The members of GOGLA hold the view that nuanced, harmonised and consistent tracking and comparability of progress across countries and regions is important. Therefore, all stakeholders in the sector are encouraged to use the methodology and definitions as outlined in the Global Tracking Framework. As part of their efforts to harmonize impact reporting, GOGLA and its members commit to use the Global Tracking Framework when reporting the contribution of the industry to the goal of universal energy access and to cooperate whenever possible with the SE4All secretariat on the provision of data.

Recommended Action

It is recommended that all stakeholders measure their impact with regards to energy access and to rely to this end on the definitions and metrics of the global tracking framework. Only if all stakeholders use the same metrics, overall progress can be tracked appropriately. Energy

access programs should use the framework to assess the potential and monitor the impact of projects; governments should build their policies on energy access on the multi-tier framework; and companies should report their impact by using the global tracking framework methodology.

Further Reading

SE4All (2013): Global Tracking Framework http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2013/05/28/000112742_20130528084417/Rendered/PDF/778890GTF0full0report.pdf