

Project Title: Improving Health of Women and Children through Renewables and Efficient Cook stoves

Project ID (if available): TA-PO83898-TAS-BB

Region/Country: South Asia Region / Bangladesh and Nepal

Task Manager: Priti Kumar

ESMAP Thematic Area (M – Main; S – Secondary (if applicable)):

Energy Security	
Energy Markets	
Energy Poverty	M
Renewable Energy	S
Energy Efficiency	

Brief Description:

Please include a brief description of the linkage (direct or indirect) of this activity to energy services to the poor, and the linkage to the ESMAP 2005-2007 Business Plan (if such a linkage is not obvious)

Rural development is a principal element of the poverty reduction and development efforts of governments of South Asia, particularly Bangladesh and Nepal, supported by the World Bank through a robust and growing program of projects addressing rural employment, service delivery, finance, local government institutions, etc. The absence of clean household energy exposes rural population, particularly women and children, to high risks associated with poor indoor air quality due to traditional cooking practices and critically hampers their prospects of escaping from poverty, whereas increasing energy availability and cleaner technologies through market-based mechanisms offers a range of benefits capable of triggering wider transformations in rural living conditions and economic opportunities. Currently in Bangladesh and Nepal, indoor air pollution is one of the leading causes of infant deaths after water borne and sanitation related diseases. Indoor air pollution is thus an environmental health priority, which needs to be addressed to reach the health-related MDG targets. It may be noted that there is a steadily growing momentum in IAP mitigation in both Bangladesh and Nepal. It is a welcome development as the problem is extensive.

This activity will provide critical upstream support to the Governments of Bangladesh and Nepal to review and consolidate the service delivery approaches adopted in range of programs relevant to rural energy and other programs for possible use in and adaptation to IAP reduction programs. This activity will recommend some viable institutional models to strengthen dissemination of improved stoves and biogas technologies in a sustainable manner. This activity will be carried out through case studies (desk review, sites visits and stakeholder discussions) in selected areas, agreed jointly by the Governments of Bangladesh and Nepal and the Bank teams, representing different geographical and socio-economic conditions in select best practice programs. The Reports are intended to be useful to a large national and international audience of policy and key decision makers, stove practitioners and experts and professionals.

In Bangladesh, as a follow-up of the *Bangladesh Country Environment Analysis* completed in early 2006, Government of Bangladesh (GoB) has requested the World Bank for support for a community-led approach to address the problems associated with conventional cooking practices and its direct health risks. GoB has appointed Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) as the designated nodal agency for this activity. The above activity will focus on designing a Pilot Project focusing on rural energy solutions (mainly improved cook stoves and biogas) in close collaboration with other institutional actors and will include

- (i) Undertake rapid assessments of service delivery and institutional models in ongoing successful programs, including the Total Sanitation Campaign
- (ii) Develop required community participatory and health surveillance tools, catalogue newest technical options to tackle indoor air pollution and
- (iii) Create awareness among a broad range of stakeholders to build commitment
- (iv) Summary analysis of lessons learnt and best practices, and development of a framework for a subsequent phase of the program.

In Nepal, an ESMAP-supported activity will be a follow-up to the ongoing *Nepal Country Environmental Analysis (CEA)*, which includes an environmental health analysis of the risks associated with poor indoor air quality due to traditional cooking practices. Discussions with the Alternate Energy Promotion Council (AEPC), the lead government institution supporting household energy programs and the largest promoter of improved stoves in Nepal, and other NGOs and information from reports point out to a clear need for better coordination between the several programs, and for improved consistency in technology (suited for eco-regions), design (suited to user needs), costs, training and quality control. There is an interest in the AEPC to carry out a consolidated review of the Nepal cook stoves program and ensure that lessons learned from past programs are properly documented and incorporated into subsequent phases of their program. AEPC has potential to leverage its role in ensuring consistency amongst the various programs AEPC plans to expand the improved cook stoves program across Nepal, as demand continues to grow with increasing fuel wood scarcity in the middle hills region. It is estimated that demand for improved cook stoves is approximately 3 million households in the mid hills as well as the Terai region. In addition, AEPC plans on extending the program in the mountainous areas with appropriate stove designs to be adjusted to consider role of stoves for both cooking and heating.

This activity contributes to the ESMAP strategy in all the three strategic areas – addressing energy poverty, improving the impact of energy practices on environment and human health, particularly that of women and small children, and development of commercial markets for energy services.

Delivery Schedule:

PCN Review	February 15, 2007
Completion draft final/formal review meeting	February 28, 2008
Final delivery to client	June 30, 2008

Outputs expected:

	Yes?	Delivery date (Quarter, FY)
Formal AAA Report	Yes	Q4, FY07
Informal AAA product (e.g., policy note) – indicate:	No	
National Workshop and thematic roundtables	Yes	Q2, FY08
Training course/materials/knowledge products	Yes	Q4, FY07; FY08
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Others (IAP-reducing participatory tools and methodologies, for community planning and action on IAP; Manual for improved stoves technologies) 	Yes	