

Intervention by the Netherlands (2 May 2006)

Yesterday the WHO mentioned the need to chop up the large 'people without access' numbers in smaller targets. The Netherlands has set a target of providing 10 million people with access to modern energy services by 2015. The Netherlands targets mean access to cooking energy and electricity. For the Netherlands access to modern energy services is a condition for achieving the MDGs.

The target is dealt with in the context of sectorwide approach in line with the Paris Agenda on harmonisation and with the national governments in the driver seat. The national policies like PRSP and national budgets are the leading frameworks. The targets should be seen as the outcome of the sector support with a strong pro-poor focus. It is a change from an input effort to an output target. Nowadays the emphasis is still on the large investments in powerplants mainly favouring the richer part of society whereas the MDGs are aimed at poverty reduction.

Yesterday the discussion was if the 10 million people shouldn't be 10 million women. 10 Million women with access means 10 million households and that is many more than 10 million people. But the target focusses very much on women and girls since they suffer most from the lack of access.

The target is not necessarily access to clean energy. For the poor access is more important than the environmental side of it. The additional CO₂ emission from the provision of energy to the poor amounts, according to UNDP, only 1-2 %. Of course where financially and economically feasible the choice will be on the cleanest form possible.