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# SDG DECODED

7 AFFORDABLE AND  
CLEAN ENERGY



# ACCESS COALITION SOUTHERN AFRICA

Promoting Sustainable Energy Access in Zimbabwe





## INTRODUCTION

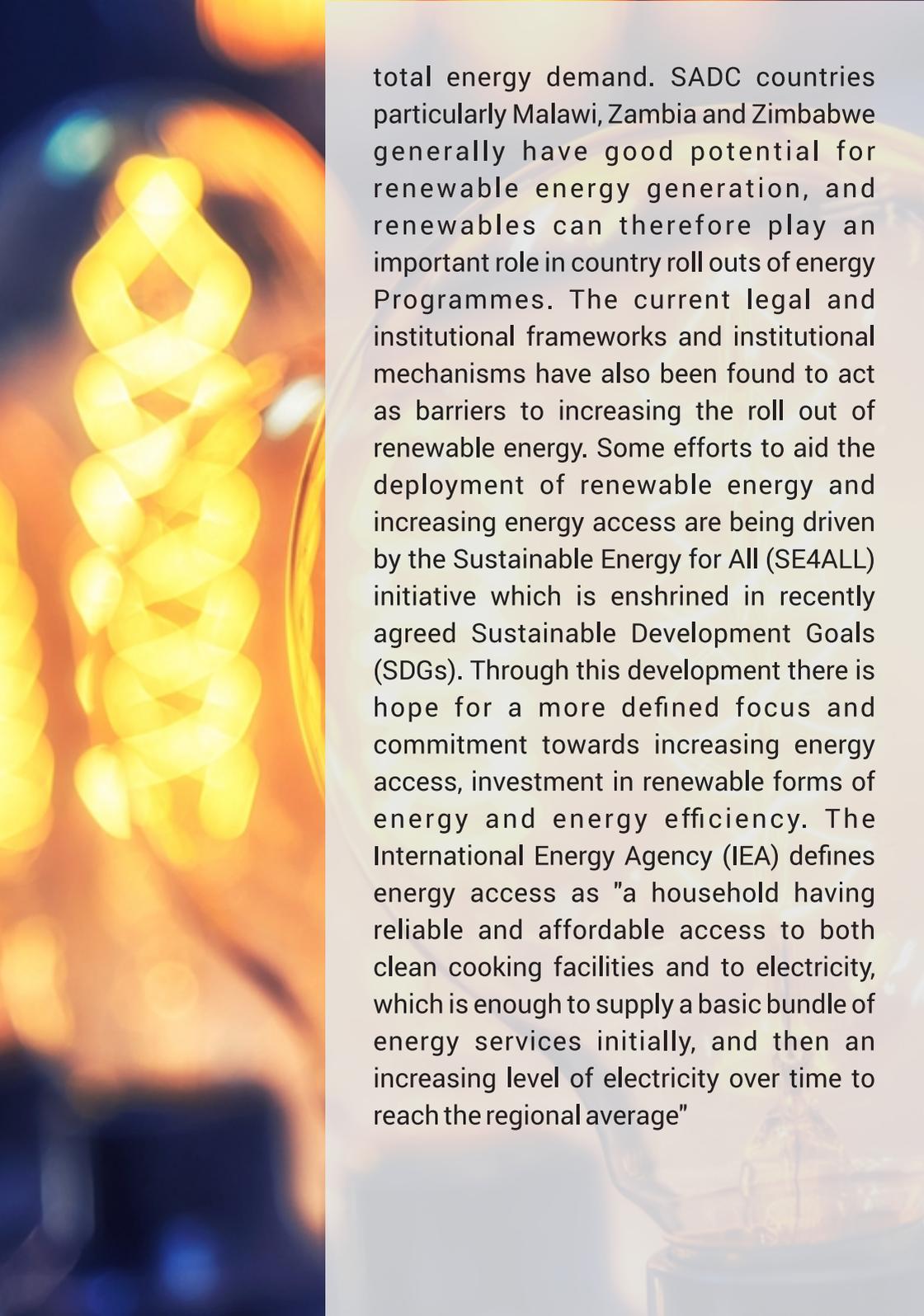
During the last decade, a greater share of the global population gained access to electricity than ever before, but the number of people without electricity in Sub-Saharan Africa actually increased. The report Tracking SDG 7: The Energy Progress Report released by International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), the World Bank, and the World Health Organization (WHO), highlights that unless efforts are scaled up significantly in countries with the largest deficits the world will still fall short of ensuring universal access to affordable, reliable,

sustainable, and modern energy by 2030. This deficit affects socio-economic development of less developed countries where majority of people rely on polluting fuels to cook and heat their homes resulting in indoor and outdoor air pollution that cause widespread health impacts. According to the World Bank, 789 million live without electricity and hundreds of millions live with insufficient or unreliable access to it. Access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy SGG7 is vital to reaching all other UN SDGs and critical for many countries to meet their climate



change mitigation targets. The global energy landscape is witnessing major transformations and renewable energy is playing an increasing role in help

An energy access divide is apparent throughout most SADC countries, with a small proportion of people having access to quality energy sources. Due to high levels of poverty many are unable to afford already cheap electricity, and the extension of the electrical grid is therefore not necessarily sufficient to ensure access to quality energy for most citizens. Statistics show an apparent correlation between energy usages per capita and overall socio-economic development, and the rollout of energy Programmes should therefore be integrated into the broader development planning. To significantly increase the share of renewable energy in line with the SDG 7 target, current efforts need to accelerate in all end-use sectors to scale uptake of renewables while containing



total energy demand. SADC countries particularly Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe generally have good potential for renewable energy generation, and renewables can therefore play an important role in country roll outs of energy Programmes. The current legal and institutional frameworks and institutional mechanisms have also been found to act as barriers to increasing the roll out of renewable energy. Some efforts to aid the deployment of renewable energy and increasing energy access are being driven by the Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) initiative which is enshrined in recently agreed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Through this development there is hope for a more defined focus and commitment towards increasing energy access, investment in renewable forms of energy and energy efficiency. The International Energy Agency (IEA) defines energy access as "a household having reliable and affordable access to both clean cooking facilities and to electricity, which is enough to supply a basic bundle of energy services initially, and then an increasing level of electricity over time to reach the regional average"

### OVERVIEW OF ACCESS COALITION

The Alliance of Civil society organizations for Clean Energy Access (ACCESS) is a global coalition of over 90 Civil Society Organisations and practitioners whose mission is to advocate for people living in poverty to have access to safe, reliable, affordable energy, and for environmentally sustainable and efficient energy systems globally. The Coalition's advocacy priorities are centered on three key work-streams which are namely; (a) Ensuring inclusive SDG 7 implementation; (b)

Carrying out advocacy and engagement with multi-lateral development banks (MDBs), namely the Africa Development Bank (AfDB) and the World Bank Group (WBG); (c) Building member knowledge and capacity building around energy access issues through the ACCESS Learning Group.

ACCESS aims to strengthen the visibility and presence of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Community Based Organizations (CBOs) within energy initiatives at the national, regional and International level.

Using their expertise and experience, ACCESS members seek to:

- Improve other stakeholders' understanding of the energy needs of poor communities;
- Raise awareness and build demand for energy services and products among poor groups;
- Build public understanding and political support for inclusive energy planning, and the enabling environment reforms needed to support delivery of universal energy access;
- Design and deliver energy solutions with long-term development impact.
- Given that ACCESS spans the local, national, regional and international levels, the coalition is ideally placed to promote greater communication and more coherent action by a range of stakeholders working within and across different national contexts, regions, and at different scales.

## Access Coalition Work Streams

The three work streams ACCESS aims to strengthen the visibility and presence of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) on energy access initiatives at national, regional and International level. The workstreams are largely hinged on policy advocacy which guides the coalitions' mission. The workstreams are namely;



### SDG7 Implementation (Policy Advocacy)

SDG7 implementation involves reviews and progress reporting. At international level reviews and progress reporting are carried out through the UN High level Political Forum, whereas, at country level it is voluntarily done and centralised to government and its agencies. Access coalition advocates for active and inclusive participation of non-state actors in reviewing and reporting the progress of SDG7 implementation. The coalition calls for presentation of meaningful, timely data and reporting frameworks to measure progress on SDGs.



## INFLUENCING AFDB & WORLD BANK

Multi-lateral Development Banks are international institutions that provide assistance, typically in form of loans and grants to developing countries in order to promote economic and social development. African Development Bank and the World Bank are strategic stakeholders critically important in achieving SDG7 through their energy programs, policies and energy investment decisions. It is therefore, important for the Civil society to scale up engagement with these financial institutions which have an almost similar mandate to end poverty and promote socio-economic development. Access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy (SDG7) is vital to reaching all other UN SDGs and critical for many countries to meet their climate change mitigation targets. Access also welcome commitments by the World Bank Group and Africa Development Bank to help countries achieve SDG7 and ensure universal energy access by 2030. Access coalition also welcome funding of off grid solutions however, advocates for the address of the in-built bias for fossil fuels at these multilateral banks and in client governments.

## **Action 24 -Access Coalition Sothern Africa Regional Node Coordinator**

Action 24 is a Civil Society Organisation operating in Zimbabwe formally registered in 2010. The mission of the organisation is to empower communities through climate actions that contributes to sustainable development. The organisation has championed renewable energy advocacy programs in the country and has encouraged participation and inclusion of marginalised

communities in both renewable energy policy formulamtion and implementation processes. Action 24 is the Southern Africa regional node coordinating organisation for Access coalition. As Access Coalition Southern Africa node coordinating organisation, Action 24 is responsible for facilitating a platform for coalition members to:

Actively engage and work with relevant government agencies and other stakeholders in the across the region to support integrated energy planning and ensure effective national implementation of SDG7 both at national and regional level.

Actively engage and monitor the efforts of development banks (AfDB and World Bank) towards achieving SDG7 and enhancing CSO participation in decision making

Build their own capacities and that of key external stakeholders to enable better advocacy, planning, decision making and implementation of SDG7.

## CSOS CAPACITY BUILDING (POLICY ADVOCACY)

CSOs represent people in the community, the most vulnerable to energy poverty who have either limited or does not have access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy. CSOs also bridges the gap between policy makers and people from the vulnerable communities. One of Access coalitions' priority focus is on strengthening efforts of CSOs working to deliver universal energy access. Access aims at building the capacities of its members to become conversant with proper policy advocacy on the other workstreams. Moreover, capacity building improves Access members' understanding of key external stakeholders involved in energy access decision-making and investing.

## THE THEORY OF CHANGE (TOC) FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA

The ToC sets out the pathways for contributing to achievement of SDG 7 on access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all by 2030 in line with the objectives of the Paris Agreement. For ACCESS Coalition, achievement of SDG 7 means the energy needs of communities' are better understood and prioritised in the planning of national, regional and international energy services. For this to be achieved, we aim to address these three gaps:

- The lack of integration and/or prioritisation of the energy needs for poor communities in both energy and wider development
- The lack of participation by communities, civil society and social enterprises in national and regional energy planning and decision-making.
- The lack of understanding/uptake of the more evidence-based and innovative approaches needed to deliver SDG 7 by governments, DFIs, investors and other stakeholders and; of the co-benefits of access to modern energy for delivery of other SDGs;
- planning and decision-making;

access

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