



Energy Safety Nets: Social assistance measures for energy access



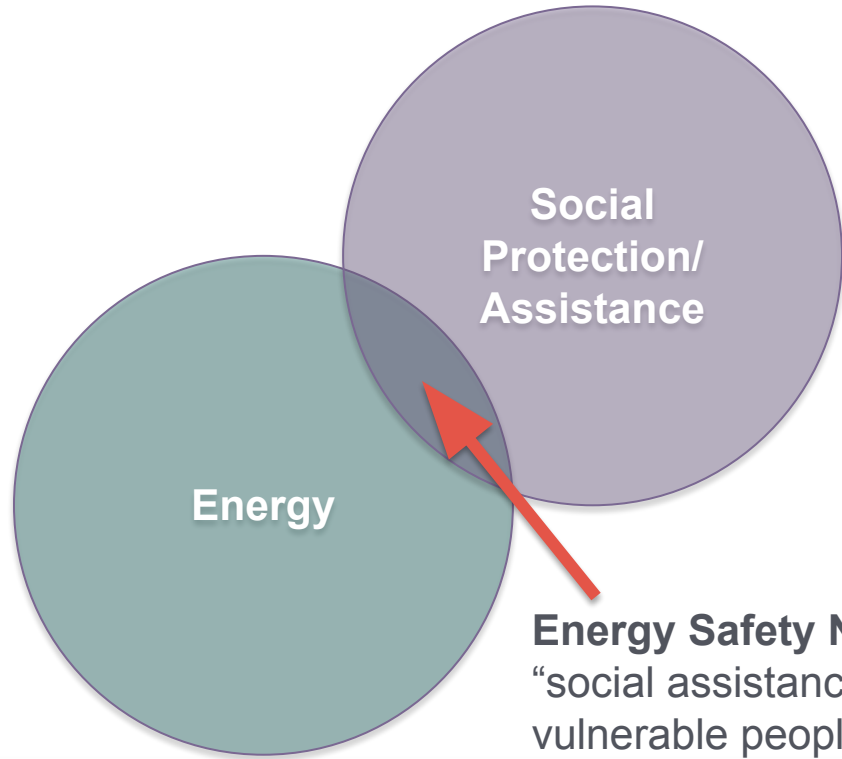
Pathways to Clean Cooking 2050,
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Energy access: availability & ability to consume



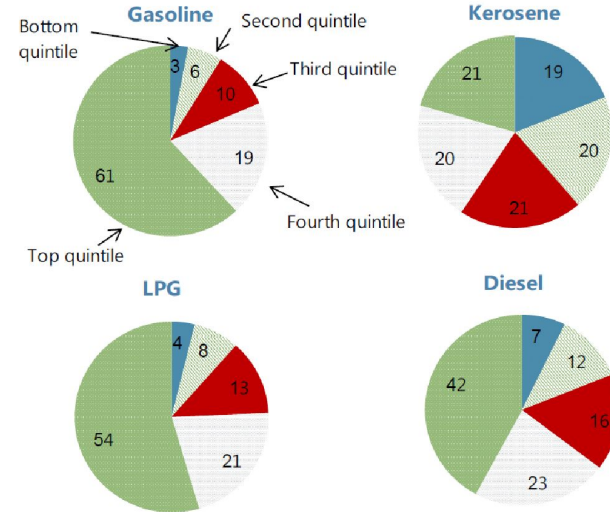
- Little crossover between the fields, not helped by
 - Binary view of ‘access’
 - Explicit exclusion of energy from social safety nets

Energy Safety Nets:

“social assistance mechanisms that enable poor and vulnerable people to access and use modern energy services”

Subsidies and energy access

- Subsidies are an important part of closing the energy access gap
- General (untargeted) subsidies are inefficient and can hamper other SDGs
- Targeted subsidies could be an alternative...but little evidence from lower-income countries



Above: Beneficiaries of general fuel subsidies (Source: IMF)
Below: Percentage of households by quintile in Ghana using solid fuels & kerosene for cooking (Source: [CCA](#))



Findings from 2018 literature review



- ESNs are widespread – examples found in >60 countries...mostly MICs...mostly grid-connected utilities
- (Fossil) Cooking energy often generally subsidised
- Limited evidence of targeted cooking-related ESNs (~1/4 countries)
- Broad variety in implementation
 - Identifying and reaching target population
 - How and what is provided (cash, vouchers, fee waivers, fuel, equipment...)
 - Interaction with other government policy and NGO programmes
- Very little published material assessing effectiveness

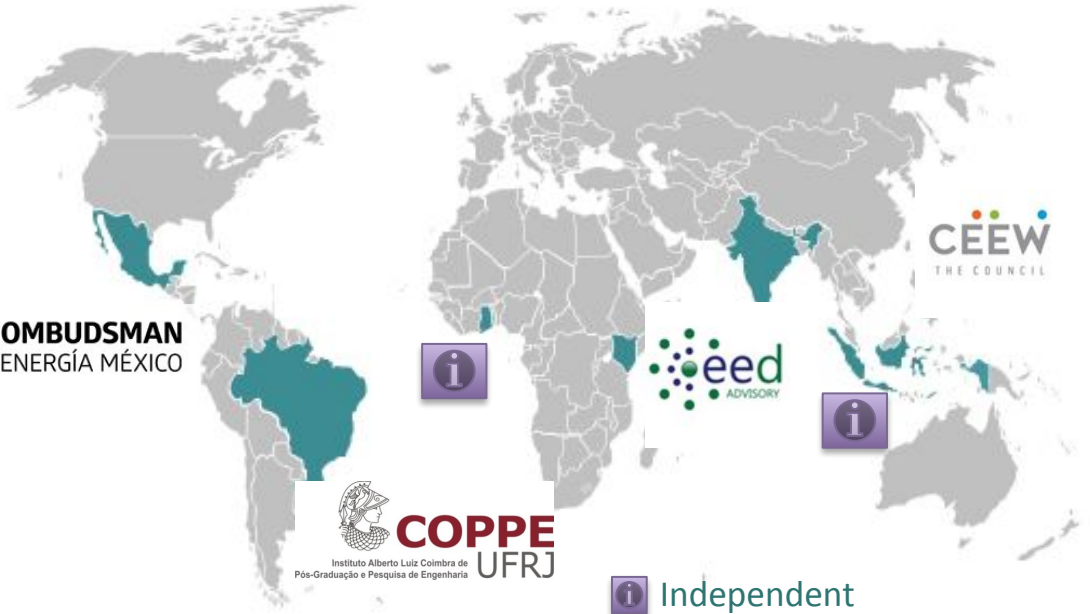


SEforAll project with country case studies

- Cooking energy key focus in 5/6 countries
- Can ESNs promote access to modern energy services for poorest people in LICs and MICs?
- Can ESNs benefit from existing experience with other social assistance programmes?



 Independent
researchers



Some early findings

- Welcome engagement from energy and social protection fields
- ESNs often a small part of a complex web of support by governments (MICs) and NGOs/aid agencies (LICs)
- Experience varies within countries
- Technology increasingly being used to facilitate targeting



Three takeaway thoughts

- Leaving nobody behind means providing some groups with assistance to ensure access to clean cooking services
- Limited understanding of how governments do and can support their poorest/most vulnerable citizens alongside market-driven transitions to clean(er) cooking fuels
- Ongoing research – know of a scheme we should look at or want to know more? Please get in touch!

Thank you!

