




Energy Services for the World's Poor



The World Bank



Energy Sector Management
Assistance Programme



Energy and Development Report **2000**

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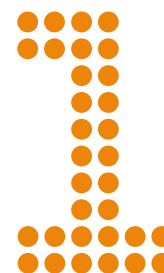
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for the
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Foreword

How should a developing country government, concerned with tackling poverty among its citizens, think about its role in the energy sector? Do energy policies and projects have a positive role to play in alleviating poverty? If they do, what kinds of policies and projects are likely to have the most beneficial—and sustainable—impact? And where should energy sector policy advisers, similarly concerned with promoting development and improving the lot of the poor, focus their efforts?

These are the critical—and contentious—questions motivating this year's *Energy and Development Report*. They lie at the heart of the debate about how much emphasis development policies should place on growth and on attempts to directly improve the lot of the poorest. And they are central to debates about the potential of different sectoral interventions to improve both general economic well-being and the welfare of the poor. The chapters that follow offer no definitive answers, no magic bullets. But they do seek to cast light—and provoke debate—on the questions that must be answered to develop energy sector policies that play a positive and sustainable role in the battle against poverty.

James Bond

Chairman, Energy and Mining Sector Board

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