

CASE STUDIES ON ENERGY AT THE HOUSEHOLD LEVEL, WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON HEALTH OF THE POOR

An Initiative of the World Health Organization

Guidelines for the Preparation of Case Studies

BACKGROUND TO THE INITIATIVE

During April 2001, energy for sustainable development is being discussed at the CSD 9 meeting. In light of the burden of morbidity and mortality associated with energy use, it is considered of key importance to emphasize public health aspects of energy provision and use, particularly at the household level. Accordingly, the World Health Organisation has initiated an exercise aimed at collating a number of country level case studies, which describe experiences in relation to household energy policies and strategies, and the implications for health. In addition to facilitating a focus on health aspects of energy, the case studies are intended to enrich dialogue in the CSD process, and ensure that recent country level experiences in translating sustainable and health promoting energy policies and strategies into concrete actions are taken account of.

Aspects to be covered by the case studies include, with an emphasis on health throughout, the nature of energy policies and strategies, their implementation and evaluation (as well as any associated research programmes undertaken), the outcomes and impacts, lessons learned, and adaptations to national energy policies and strategies as a consequence of lessons learned. In the interests of uniformity, and to assist in the preparation of case studies, some basic guidelines are set out below.

Scope of case study

Case studies should present a detailed description of policies and strategies developed, and an analysis of the extent to which the application of specific energy policies and strategies have been able to address

public health concerns, particularly of the poor. An account should be given of the prevailing socioeconomic, environmental and health conditions in the country, patterns of current fuel use and supply, future predicted trends in fuel use and supply, policy interventions (eg taxes, subsidies, financial incentives) and technical interventions (eg improved stoves, changes in fuel use, housing improvements, behavioural change), and implications for health. The role of sectors such as energy, health, housing should be highlighted, as well as of differing tiers of government, NGOs/CBOs, the private sector etc.

The general situation and problems that existed prior to the implementation of the policies or strategies concerned, and the background to the development of the policies, should be outlined. Details of the type of policy or strategy interventions, as well as the manner in which these were implemented, including for example, financial aspects and marketing mechanisms, should be given.

An important element of the case study will be the problems and obstacles to successful implementation that were encountered. Where problems and obstacles were successfully overcome, the manner in which this was achieved should also be outlined. The outcome and impacts of the policies and strategies that were introduced should be characterized and analyzed, including wherever possible the findings of research and evaluation initiatives. Finally, the case study should describe lessons learned in the course of the implementation of the energy policy and/or strategy.

The case study should elucidate the roles of the various stakeholders, as well as key partnerships, that were instrumental in bringing about the successful outcome. It is often possible in retrospect, to identify ways in which the activities undertaken, or additional activities not implemented, could have led to increased impact; suggestions related to such activities would be useful.

SUGGESTED FORMAT FOR THE CASE STUDY

The format suggested below is mainly intended for the purpose of maintaining some uniformity in the different case study presentations, and also to serve as a guide in organizing the contents of the case study. ***The length of the case study paper should be around 20 pages.***

Title

Provide a concise title for the case study that refers to a national energy policy or strategy.

Authors

Provide the full names of authors, as well as their institutional affiliations, and contact details.

Abstract

Provide a 150-200-word abstract of the case study. The abstract should be self-contained and should state the problem, how it was addressed, and the overall outcome/s.

Country Profile

In this section, provide basic background information (eg prevailing socioeconomic, environmental and health conditions) for the country under discussion. This information should be aimed at clarifying the impact of policy interventions that the case study attempts to illustrate.

The Problem

Provide information on the specific problem being addressed, and the conditions or situation that acted to compound the problem. Wherever possible the health aspects of the problem should be emphasized. Previous efforts to address the issue or problem should be described. Identify the technical, economic, social, environmental, legal, political and financial constraints and barriers that were faced or continue to be faced in respect of the problem.

Policy/Strategy Objectives

State the aims and objectives of the policy/strategy in bulleted-form. Also outline the process followed for the development of the policy/strategy.

Implementation

In this section, the type of policy or strategies should be outlined, including for example, implementation elements and strategies, market mechanisms, financial instruments, and related activities, should be described. Emphasis should be given to the health implications of the policy/strategy.

It should be clearly stated how the policy/strategy addressed the various barriers and constraints. Also describe any sources of conflict that arose, and briefly sketch the policy and social implications of the conflict situations, as well as actions adopted to resolve them.

Outcome and Impacts

Discuss the results and impacts both in qualitative as well as in quantitative terms, incorporating the findings of research and evaluation exercises as possible. Relate the efforts made to overcome specific barriers to the results that were achieved. Describe the extent to which the project has contributed to capacity building and to enhancing the level of awareness of stakeholders on the issues concerning energy, environment, development and health in the community. Comment on other relevant aspects such as political support, market reforms and stakeholder involvement that might have had an impact on the results of the case study.

Project/Strategy Status

Provide brief information on the status of the policy/program, in other words whether completed or still ongoing. Additional information as to whether all the necessary elements of the program are developed or are yet to be developed in more detail would be helpful.

Lessons Learned

Delineate the experience gained through the implementation of the energy policy/strategy. Describe the lessons learned with regard to roles played by the different actors. Include the experiences with regard to community awareness and their active involvement in influencing the direction of policy as well as in translating policy into action. Comment on the role and involvement of women in the policy/strategy development process and/or implementation.

Further Information

Provide names, addresses (postal as well as e-mail) and telephone/fax numbers of relevant institutions responsible for the project or program that constitutes the case study so that further information can be sought, if necessary. Any supporting documentation would be useful as attachments.