



National Human Development Report on Energy-Induced Vulnerabilities in the Kyrgyz Republic

“Power to the Poor: Creating a just energy transition for all”

CONCEPT OVERVIEW

April 2023

Background



- In February 2023, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the Kyrgyz Republic launched the research process for an independent **National Human Development Report focusing on energy vulnerabilities**.
- The report will be targeted at policymakers working on energy policies and human development and will suggest ideas for a **human-centered just energy transition**.
- The research process, which will conclude in Q1/2024, will include policy dialogues, communication campaigns and multiple events to shift public discussion on national energy policies.

What is human development?



- Human development is about enhancing people's **capabilities**, enlarging their range of **choices**, expanding their freedom and promoting human rights for all citizens.
- It is about the freedoms people can enjoy, what they are free to choose and to be.
- It is essentially an alternative concept of development that goes beyond economic growth and regards **people's lives as its central focus**.
- Beyond income and economic growth, it encompasses a broader range of dimensions including health, education, social protection, gender equality, political participation, environmental sustainability and human rights.
- UNDP's approach to human development is grounded in the principles of human rights, equity, sustainability and resilience.

National Human Development Reports (NHDRs)



- Pioneered by UNDP since the 1990s and usually led by UNDP Country Offices
- Independent studies that explore linkages of human development to major social, economic and environmental issues or phenomena at national and sub-national level
- Promote human development and wellbeing beyond measures of income and GDP, focusing on the choices and opportunities people take to bring their life to a better condition
- Aim at raising public awareness on the ideas of human development
- Take a free format and can be based on a variety of research methods (desk review, new data collection and analysis, modelling, micro-narratives and other)
- Seek to transform thinking on poverty reduction and human development into policy areas for national action
- Between 1999 and 2016 the UNDP in the Kyrgyz Republic published 8 such reports focusing on democratic governance, development of mountainous regions, civil society, youth, local self-governance and trade.

Energy access challenges in the Kyrgyz Republic



- Only 72% of population have stable access to electricity (only 64% in rural areas)
- 60% of consumers experience **power outages** several times a year
- **Energy poverty** affects about 40.4% of the population. Poorer households spend more on electricity and energy
- Not all provinces are connected to centralized gas supply, so many people, especially in rural areas are dependent on **dirty fuels**, and **black coal** is the most used energy source, especially in the poorest households
- Clean fuels account for no more than 20-30% of consumption structure in all provinces and cities
- Energy consumption for heating private households leads to **severe air pollution** in Bishkek, Osh and other cities, negatively affecting human health
- Domestic energy generation heavily relies on hydropower that is under **increased risks due to climate change**
- **Energy demand** is growing, and it is increasingly difficult for the energy producers to meet it
- **Electricity tariffs** are too low to cover energy infrastructure maintenance and development costs and do not encourage consumers to save energy

Thematic focus of NHDR 2024: energy vulnerability



The report will focus on exploring how energy links to human development, using such concepts as:

- **access to energy** and **energy poverty** (inability of individuals to adequately heat their homes or meet other energy service needs at affordable costs)
- **energy vulnerability** (related to technical deprivation, affordability of energy, energy needs and perception of energy poverty)
- **energy justice** (normative and ethical issues of energy consumption and production)
- **just energy transition** (from coal-intensive, unsustainable energy use to a zero-carbon energy system)

NHDR will also touch upon issues of energy as a human right, the role of women and youth in just transition, regional cooperation on energy and future outlooks for energy in the Kyrgyz Republic.

Once the theoretical scoping study for NHDR is completed, this list may be complemented by more concepts.

Key objectives of NHDR 2024



1. Raise public awareness and trigger action on critical concerns around human development and energy access
2. Strengthen national statistical and analytic capacities to assess and promote people-centered development
3. Shape policies and programmes by providing options and broad recommendations on human-centered energy policy and just energy transition based on new data and its thorough analysis

Planned results of the study



The NHDR will produce a **thorough analysis of energy and human development in the Kyrgyz Republic**, and provide a **set of recommendations** for different stakeholders (policymakers in government and parliament, statistical institutions, energy providers and utility companies, academic community and civil society organisations) on improving energy policies in a human-centered way.

At the end of the research process, on top of the final NHDR study publication, UNDP plans to publish a summary for policymakers, focus papers, data collection reports and statistical tables.

A detailed research methodology for NHDR 2024 will be developed once a thorough scoping study is prepared.

Research formats may include:

- Detailed desk review of available data
- Qualitative and quantitative focus papers on selected topics from independent experts
- Household survey for quantitative and/or qualitative data collection through an experienced research firm or a team of experts

- **Policy dialogues:** as part of the research process, UNDP will host several events with key stakeholders to focus the public discussion on energy from the human development perspective
- **Communication campaigns:** throughout the process UNDP will also raise general awareness of key audiences on the concept of human development
- **Advisory Board:** UNDP will set up a group of prominent thinkers from the government, academia and expert community to provide overall guidance on the thematic directions of the study
- **Peer review:** the study will be thoroughly reviewed and validated by recognized experts in the fields of energy, economics and social development

Linkages to national programmes and strategies



- **National Development Strategy 2018-2040** has human development at its core
- **National Development Programme until 2026** promotes green economy, leaving no one behind and calls for energy transition
- **Green Economy Development Programme 2019-2023** calls for energy transition and inclusive growth
- **Action Plan of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2023** includes measures to identify and support vulnerable population groups, and developing renewable energy solutions
- **Updated Nationally Determined Contributions** to reduce greenhouse gas emissions until 2030 list energy sector as the one with the highest climate mitigation potential
- **National Energy Programme 2024-2025** and **Development Strategy of the Fuel and Energy Complex until 2035** (currently drafted) with expected provisions on renewable energy

Preliminary outline of the NHDR report



- i. Forward
- ii. Acknowledgements
- iii. Executive Summary

Chapter 1. Energy and human development: dispelling myths for a just energy transition

Chapter 2. Deepening resilience – assessing energy vulnerability in Kyrgyz households

Chapter 3. Human costs of inaction: protecting human development progress

Chapter 4. Political economy of the energy transition from coal – centering well-being

Chapter 5. Powering climate commitments and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Chapter 6. Building a just energy transition for future generations

Beyond tariffs

Towards a hub for innovation

Shifting public opinions and raising awareness

Social protection for women, youth and vulnerable groups

Regional cooperation at a crossroads

Statistical Annex: Human development and energy data tables

NHDR 2024 preparation timeline



February
Launch of the
research process

June-August
Data collection
Preparation of thematic
focus papers

November-
December
Peer review

January-
February
Preparation
of final
report and
summary

April-June
Dissemination
of results

2023

March-May
Preparation of
the scoping
study

September -
October
Data analysis and
drafting of final
NHDR study

2024

March
**Launch of the
final
publication**



More information on NHDR 2024:

<https://www.undp.org/kyrgyzstan/projects/national-human-development-report-2024-energy-induced-vulnerabilities>

Subscribe to NHDR newsletter here: <https://forms.office.com/e/FUNrNaJDZs>

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