

Afghanistan Energy Study 9th Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting time and location: Wednesday March 20, 2019, World Bank

Discussions and Decisions:

1. The 9th Afghanistan Energy Study Committee meeting was held on March 20, 2019 to discuss the study progress and what needs to be done as the study is nearing completion by mid-2019. Deputy Minister of Water, Mr. Khan Mohammad Takal, opened the session.
2. Ms. Fanny Missfeldt-Ringius presented to the audience an overview of the status of the study, including the development objective of the project, its funding, activities included under the project umbrella, achievements to date, and *modus operandi* of the study. She underlined that GIS has been a vital tool in energy sector and that this study's geospatial working group has supported the identification of future solar sites for Afghanistan. Nevertheless, there are two components that cannot be concluded under the study.
3. Mr. Nicholas Ross from Samuel Hall updated the Committee members on the status of the energy diary survey. He stated that three months of the one-year long survey are remaining, and the data collection will end in June 2019. After data collection the analysis of the data and write up of the results will start. Two of the communities have been connected to the grid during the survey period, which should provide for interesting results. Persons surveyed who do not have access to the electric grid are using more solar than diesel, which is a shift from the past and reflects the improvements and cost reductions of solar products. All reports to date are on the energypedia website of the Afghanistan Energy Study.
4. First-time committee meeting participants wanted to know how the analysis for the identification of solar sites was performed. Hence, a brief presentation and question/answer session was held at the end of the committee meeting by Mr. Farhad Miakhel GIS specialist from CRIDA, explaining the exclusion/inclusion criteria for the land to answer the questions of the audience on multi-criteria analysis, socio-economic criteria, renewable resource availability, and demand forecasts. Several participants asked for the maps of this analysis to be shared to avoid duplication of work and to help develop solar projects.
5. Ms. Fanny explained that the governance workshop that was held under Activity 5 "Institutional Assessment" would need a concluding session to allow for the body of work prepared under this component to be adopted by government.
6. Mr. Efre Ferrari from IFC presented the new "Pay as You Go" initiative, which is providing solar home systems to areas without grid connectivity. He mentioned that these types of initiatives are growing fast especially in Africa. The market analysis results for Afghanistan is not finalized yet. The activity targets rural areas, but people from urban areas may also show interest. People in the audience raised the question of how

acceptable the program is and whether it is affordable for the people, and who takes care of operation and maintenance (which has been a challenge with solar systems in Afghanistan). Mr. Ferrari explained that the challenge of MRRD's solar program (launched 10 years ago) under the NSP was that systems were handed out for free (thus lack of ownership), and there were issues with the quality of systems supplied. Today's solar systems are significantly advanced. The initiative is integrated with telecommunication, which disconnect people from the solar system if they do not pay and allows to help better maintenance. Mr. Tahirzada from DABS requested to have coordination with DABS on the program since DABS is interested to investigate such initiatives. The role of IFC in the initiative is to help raise awareness on good solar solutions and encourage the private sector to invest. The systems need to protect the customers in terms of quality, O&M and affordability, while also taking care of private sector participation.

7. Ms. Fanny explained that as the Afghanistan Energy Study (AES) closes, a new follow-on program is envisaged. A follow-on study is planned for a three-year period. However, funding still needs to be acquired for this next study. The following possible areas of further research could be discussed: (i) Afghanistan's Energy Sector 2030 and beyond, (ii) Afghanistan's Energy Sector Institutional Reform, and (iii) Providing Modern Energy Services to Off-grid Areas. She invited audience to share their thoughts on where participants thought priorities for the next program should be put. In general, the audience supported the priorities for the next program. Mr. Saboory from both Kabul University and AREU shared the concern that Government should move coherently to affect policy change in the energy sector. He mentioned that the renewable energy plan was drafted but it was not in compliance with national energy plan. Also, the changing structure and responsibility of the public institutions working in the energy space causes uncertainty among the private sector thus reducing real investments. He suggested that there should be a long-term strategic plan give a clear picture of when system investments need to take place, and where. He also mentioned that since Afghanistan is majorly supplied through imports, the regional involvement should also be discussed in energy sector discussions, hence MoFA should be involved as well. Mr. Takal added that there is a need for a revised energy law defining the roles of stakeholders, energy policy and a new master plan along with action plan for each year. He also mentioned that the 2,000MW package of solar should be aligned with geospatial analysis, MEW should take the lead of every energy project, and that any report to be published should be submitted to MEW for review. The World Bank team confirmed that it would take these suggestions on board. Participants were encouraged to submit additional suggestions within a two-week window.
8. The meeting was closed by requesting all participants to send their suggestion on what needs to be done to the World Bank and there will be a proposal prepared based on that.

Annex I_ Agenda

AFGHANISTAN ENERGY STUDY

9th Afghanistan Energy Study Committee Meeting

March 20, 2019

09:00 am – 01:00 pm

World Bank, Kabul, Afghanistan

Background: the purpose of the Afghanistan Energy Study is to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the energy sector, and to inform investments that aim to increase accessibility to affordable and sustainable energy. The study is expected to last until mid-2019. The Afghanistan Energy Study Committee oversees the study and ensures quality control. It is chaired by the Deputy Minister of Energy and Water (*currently Acting Minister*), and composed of representatives from MEW, MRRD, and DABS. In addition, a Geo-Spatial Working Group has been formed as an integral part of Activity 4 (Least Cost Electrification Plan and Development of Investment Prospectus) of the Afghanistan Energy Study. This working group consists of nominated officials from Kabul Polytechnic University and Kabul University, Afghan Geodesy and Cartography Head Office (AGCHO), the Capital Region Independent Development Authority (CRIDA), the Afghan power utility DABS, the Ministry for Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD), Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL), and Ministry for Energy and Water (MEW). The purpose of this 9th meeting is to take stock of progress on the overall study thus far and to agree on the next steps going forward.

AGENDA

09:00-09:15 am	Welcome – Fanny Missfeld Ringuis – Senior Energy Specialist World Bank
09:15-11:15 am	Update on Overall Progress of Afghanistan Energy Study: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>The progress of the project components (By Fanny Missfeldt Ringuis)</i>- <i>Household and Enterprise Energy Diaries: Status of energy survey (by Samuel Hall)</i>- Renewable Energy:<ul style="list-style-type: none">o <i>AWCC Pay as You Go Energy Services launch- a solution for rural electrification (by Efram Ferrari, IFC)</i>
11:15-12:30	Discussion on what is going to be done next
12:30-01:00 pm	Lunch, Closing, and Next Steps

Annex II_List of Participants

Khan Mohammad Takal	DM Water	MEW
Reza Haidari	Senior Energy Advisor	MEW
Farhad Mahmoody	Energy Programing Director	MEW
Mahmood Hasieb	Senior Energy Specialist	DABS
Mahmood Shah Sediqi	GIS Manager	DABS
Esmat Sharif	Renewable Energy Manager	DABS
Zabihullah Tahirzada	Deputy COO	DABS
Sweeta Sakhi	Head of Energy Coordination	DABS
Ali Maher	Deputy Program Director	GIZ-ESIP
Farhad Miakhel	GIS Manager	CRIDA
Ahmad Farid Formuli	GIS Specialist	CRIDA
Najib Rahman Saboory	Deputy Chairman AREU/ Renewable Energy Department Head KU	AREU/KU
Anwar Saraj	Professor	KPU
Nicolas Ross	Project Officer	SH
Abdullilah Qadeer	Operation Analyst	IFC
Efrem Ferrari	Lighting Afghanistan Project Coordinator	IFC
Fanny Missfeldt Ringuis	Lead Energy Specialist	WB
Taiba Jafari	Power Engineer Consultant	WB