The global scale of the problem

1 billion people with no access to electricity
1 billion people with unreliable electricity

Lack of access or unreliable access to electricity impairs progress in human welfare and quality of life, undercuts the productivity of manufacturing and commerce, and reduces overall economic growth.

600 million people without access are in Sub-Saharan Africa
40/51 countries with low access are in Sub-Saharan Africa

The universal access challenge in low-access countries

Number of projects in low-access countries

The World Bank Group’s commitment to the goal of achieving universal electricity access in 15 years requires the institution to commit or organize resources and activities that are several orders of magnitude greater than it has so far in low-access countries.

The Bank Group’s engagement was inadequate and sporadic in the electricity sectors of most low-access countries.

Lessons from successful country experience

Comprehensive rollout
Planning the rollout of national electricity access needs to be comprehensive and synchronized, integrating grid and off-grid means, and bringing development partners together.

Financial viability
Financial viability of the electricity sector should be ensured to attract investment financing on a sustained basis.

Targeting the poor
Affordability, equity, and inclusion need to be addressed by targeting the poor and those in remote and inaccessible areas.

Government vision
Government vision and its enabling engagement in addressing issues is the crucial binding factor.

Lessons from successful country experience