

Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) (2005-2007)
Progress Report
(Energy & Power and Water & Sanitation Sectors)

4. Progress on Pillar II: Promoting Pro-Poor Sustainable Growth

4.4.2 Improving Energy and Power Supply

The 2005-2007 PRSP Objective for the Energy Sector is: to expand the population's access to modern energy services while improving supply reliability. In the first year of implementation, the baseline is taken as December 2004 with the following as sub-outcomes: a) improved generating capacity in the Western Area; b) expanded access in the Bo-Kenema Region; and c) restored electricity supply to provincial headquarters towns outside the Bo-Kenema Region.

In December 2004, the electrical power demand in the Western Area, with an estimated population of 2 million (i.e., 40% of the country's population), was estimated to average around 45 MW with an estimated demand growth rate of 6.2%¹. For that demand, the estimated minimum required generating capacity was 80 MW. At that time, NPA's Kingtom Power Station had a total installed capacity of 33.3 MW with a possible available firm capacity of 27 MW serving a customer base of 44,028, including residential, commercial, industrial, governmental, and others.

In December 2005, a 7 MW plant, supplied by the South African government under a joint initiative with NEPAD, could not be commissioned for various logistical reasons. Commissioning will now be in April 2006, bringing the total installed capacity to 40.3 MW, thus increasing the available firm capacity. However, the existing generating facilities continue to be plagued by numerous operational problems, leading to their being derated to keep them within safe operational limits. This means a reduced level of power generation below the available firm capacity.

In the Bo-Kenema Region, the consumer base served by BKPS in December 2004 was 9,600 with installed generating capacity of 9 MW (5 MW thermal in Bo and 4 MW hydro in Kenema) and interconnected capacity of 7.12 MW (4 MW in Bo and 3.12 MW in Kenema). Available capacity was, however, only 5 MW with two thermal units in Bo being under repairs.

In December 2005, the increase in residential consumers in the Bo-Kenema Region was estimated at 14,293, requiring a further 10.6 MW which, added to

¹ NPA, July 2005, Phase II – Proposal for the Acquisition of 14.93 MW Additional Generating Capacity in the Western Area

the 4.4 MW required by commercial/industrial customers, brought the additional generating requirement to 15 MW. In spite of this requirement, the installed generating capacity remained at 9 MW with an interconnected capacity of 7.12 MW. A prospective project to increase the hydro capacity from 4 MW to 12 MW in two phases was getting off to a slow start by December 2005.

With respect to the restoration of the provincial power stations, work was far advanced in respect of the installation and commissioning of a 77 KVA generating plant and associated transmission and distribution network in Pujehun by December 2005. Actual commissioning was done at the end of the first quarter of FY 2006.

Two 500 KVA generating plants for Makeni were also being acquired in 2005. The generating sets were finally transported to site at the end of the first quarter of FY 2006 and are due to be soon installed and commissioned.

5. Progress on Pillar III: Promoting Human Development

5.4 Increasing Access to Safe Drinking Water & Sanitation

The main 2005-2007 PRSP Policy Outcome for the Water and Sanitation Sector is: increased access to clean water and sanitation facilities nationwide. The baseline for the first year of implementation is December 2004 with the following as sub-outcomes: a) expanded access to pipe-borne water supply in the Western Area; b) expanded access to wells and latrines in rural areas outside the Western Area; and c) improved access to clean water and sanitation facilities in the towns of Bo, Kenema, Makeni and Lungi.

In December 2004, the baseline, the water supply and sanitation coverage across the country was as follows²:

Item No.	DISTRICT	COVERAGE (%)	
		Water	Sanitation
1	KAILAHUN	14	6
2	KENEMA	22	12
3	KONO	15	10
4	BO	25	10
5	PUJEHUN	20	13
6	MOYAMBA	25	15
7	BONTHE	15	10
8	TONKOLILI	20	10
9	BOMBALI	17	12
10	KOINADUGU	21	10
11	PORT LOKO	20	12

² Nii Boi Ayibotele, March 2005, Water Supply and Sanitation Policy For Sierra Leone

Item No.	DISTRICT	COVERAGE (%)	
		Water	Sanitation
12	KAMBIA	25	10
13	WESTERN AREA	46	15
	AVERAGE	22	15

While the December 2005 figures are yet to be collated, it would appear from the table that the achievement of the millennium development goal of halving the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water by 2015 may very well be an uphill task unless and until redoubling of donor, INGO and governmental effort and financial outlay are brought to bear on the task.