

The Importance of Sustainable Energy for Children in the Islamic Republic of Iran

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### Some UNICEF recent resources



#### 2015 FOR EVERY CHILD IN DANGER UNICODE CONTROL CON

#### 2016

SCALING UP SOLAR POWERED WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS: a review of experiences



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#### **RENEWABLE ENERGY**

#### MARKET RESEARCH

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## Outline of presentation

- Children and the energy sector
- Children's access to sustainable energy
- Child-focused considerations for Iran's energy sector

# Children and the energy sector

# Energy can define a child's access to health, clean air, education, safety, and water

In homes, children need reliable access to modern lighting to do homework after dark and need heating and cooling to stay comfortable

Health centers and schools require energy for lighting, cooking, heating, cooling and ICT

Children, including those living with disabilities, need safe, clean and affordable transportation to school

Street lighting is important for children's safety, especially girls

Reliable and affordable energy is a vital for clean water and sanitation

### But energy must be clean, safe and sustainable



### **Urban environments**

### Consumption and production

### Harmful pollutants

## Air pollution and brain development



**Source:** Adapted from Brockmeyer, S., D'Anguilli, A. 'How air pollution alters brain development: the role of neuroinflammation' Translational Neuroscience. 2016; 7(1): 24–30. Figure 1.

## Renewable energy generation



- Solar Cookers
- Biogas Technologies
- Solar Greenhouses
- LED Lights
- Solar Electric Systems
- Wind Energy Technologies
- Small Scale Hydroelectric Technologies
- Biomass Electricity Generation
- Thermoelectric Generators
- Community-Based Micro-Grids
- Others...

# Children's access to sustainable energy

### Barriers preventing children's access to sustainable energy

Barriers to inclusive decision-making

Social barriers and limited awareness

Lack of financing for cleaner energy

Legal and policy barriers

**Institutional barriers** 

Lack of disaggregated data





on the importance of sustainable energy for children and the available options would galvanise broader public support and demand.



and the ability and willingness to accommodate these in decision making processes.



should be an integral part of school life, national

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we need

ve need light

should be created

clean air to voice their views both in policy and technical discussions.

> At the institutional level, systems to collect, process and publicize





should be strengthened, and global knowledge platforms on sustainable energy should pay special attention to children.

## Child-focused considerations for Iran's energy sector

| Barriers to inclusive decision-making | Raise awareness of children's distinct energy<br>needs, but also opportunities, knowledge<br>and skills, and advocate for their inclusion in<br>decision-making processes at all levels |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Social barriers and limited awareness | Integrate sustainable energy in school life, national curricula and university programs   |
|                                       | Launch public awareness campaigns on the importance of sustainable energy for children, and the available options   |
| Lack of financing for cleaner energy  | Leverage private sector finance and create<br>enabling environments that attract private<br>investments in sustainable energy   |

| Legal and policy barriers  | Undertake research on energy subsidies and subsidy<br>reforms, and phase out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies,<br>without compromising energy access of the poor         |
|----------------------------|---|
|                            | Undertake research on Intellectual Property Rights and their effects on technology transfer, and support the local production and sales of Environment Sound Technologies |
| Institutional barriers     | Strengthen local institutions and public systems relevant to the energy sector  |
|                            | Put in place a national knowledge platform on energy and children, and build partnerships and networks with stakeholders that are active in this field of work            |
| Lack of disaggregated data | Strengthen institutional systems to collect, process and publicize data relevant to energy and children   |

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Thank you



