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Rapid Evidence Review

The effect of reliable provision of electricity on job creation in urban context
(with factors of influence)

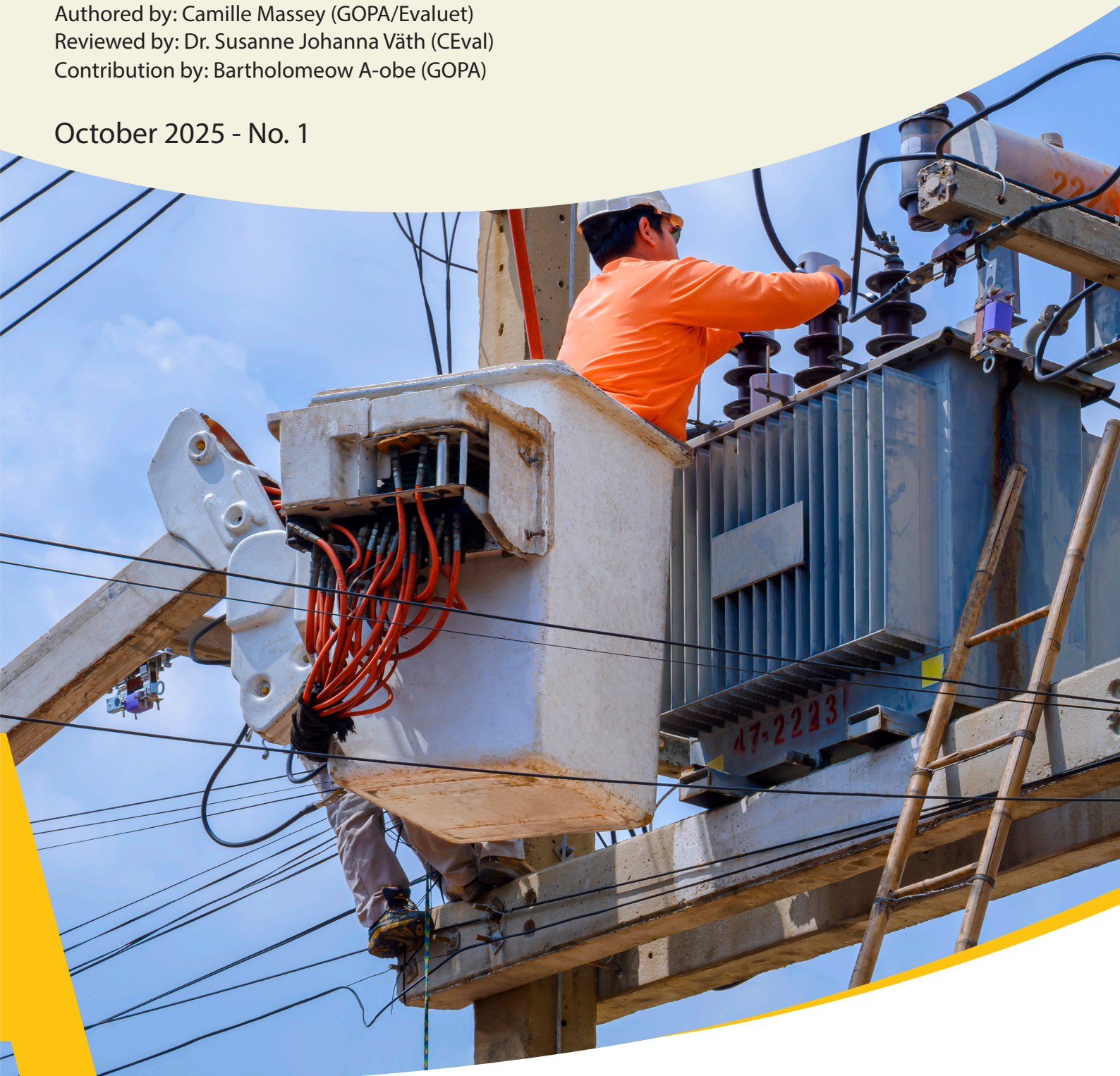
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\ ABSTRACT

Background / Objective

Reliable, cost- and resource-efficient provision of electricity is widely regarded as a driver of economic growth and employment, particularly in urban and urbanised settings where all sectors, industries and services depend on uninterrupted and failsafe energy supply. This review synthesizes evidence from 29 sources on how reliable electricity provision affects urban job creation and under which conditions.

Evidence Summary / Key Findings

The review shows there is a strong consensus about the positive effects of electricity provision on the job market:

- Reliable urban electricity provision increases local employment rates: studies show strong links between reliable supply, economic growth, and jobs.
- Unreliable supply (outages) reduces employment and welfare: frequent outages lower productivity, revenues, and employment opportunities, especially for SMEs and poorer households.
- The expansion of renewable energy and electricity infrastructure generates additional jobs.
- The magnitude and distribution of effects depend on a variety of accompanying urbanization stage, governance and inequality, energy infrastructure complementarity or policies on renewables.

Strength of Evidence / Gaps

There is strong consensus on positive impacts, but most studies rely on observational methods. Evidence on long-term causal effects, distributional outcomes across income groups, and sectoral differences remains limited.

Conclusion / Implications

Reliable electricity is a cornerstone of urban employment and resilience, but its impact is context-dependent. Integrated and consistently implemented energy and development policies are essential to maximize job creation benefits.

\ CONTENTS

\	ABSTRACT.....	1
1	INTRODUCTION	1
2	SUMMARY: TYPES OF EVIDENCED EFFECTS OF RELIABLE ELECTRICITY PROVISION.....	1
3	RELIABLE PROVISION OF ELECTRICITY AND JOB CREATION ARE LINKED THROUGH ECONOMIC GROWTH	3
4	UNRELIABLE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY HURTS BOTH EMPLOYMENT AND WELFARE	4
4.1	RELIABLE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT FOR URBAN SMES.....	4
5	KEY FACTORS OF IMPACT	5
6	RELIABILITY OF EVIDENCE AND GAPS	6
\	ABOUT THIS EVIDENCE REVIEW	8
\	ABOUT THE RAPID EVIDENCE REVIEWS	9

\ FIGURES

Figure 1: Share of rural vs. urban population with electricity access	1
Figure 2: Share of population with access to electricity	2
Figure 3: Visualisation of the state of evidence deduced from the review by the reviewer	7

1 INTRODUCTION

Reliable electricity is widely regarded as a catalyst for economic growth and employment. In urban contexts—where dense populations and diverse industries coexist—the role of uninterrupted electricity in enabling job creation has received increasing attention.

This RER is relevant to the interests to SECO-WE to the extent that Switzerland promotes the resilience of developing countries and emerging markets and aims to contribute to sustainable economic development in partner countries, giving particular importance to the social dimension.

The review synthesizes evidence from a range of studies, including cross-country analyses, city-level panel data, and systematic reviews, to provide an understanding of how and why reliable urban electricity supply affects local employment rates. It synthesizes recent evidence on the relationship between reliable electricity provision and urban job creation and identifies key factors that shape this relationship.

2 SUMMARY: TYPES OF EVIDENCED EFFECTS OF RELIABLE ELECTRICITY PROVISION

Increasing electricity and heat supply has been the mainstay of the industrial economic development programs as early as in the 1920s (Soviet Union) and the efforts of regional development (Tennessee Valley Authority and the Rural Electrification Administration in 1930s US). Even today, the relationship between reliable urban electricity supply and local employment rates is a central concern for policymakers, urban planners, and development economists.

The United Nations has declared energy access as one of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 7) and is monitoring the progress towards it annually. According to the World Bank, the access to electricity has steadily been growing globally. Regional disparities persist with Eastern and Western Asia, as well as Latin America progressing steadily; Central and Southeastern Asia showing remarkable progress since 2010, while Sub Saharan Africa remains with the largest access gap, concentrated in countries and regions suffering from fragility, conflict and violence. Also, net gains in global electricity access in rural areas, albeit significant, have been much smaller than in urban areas.

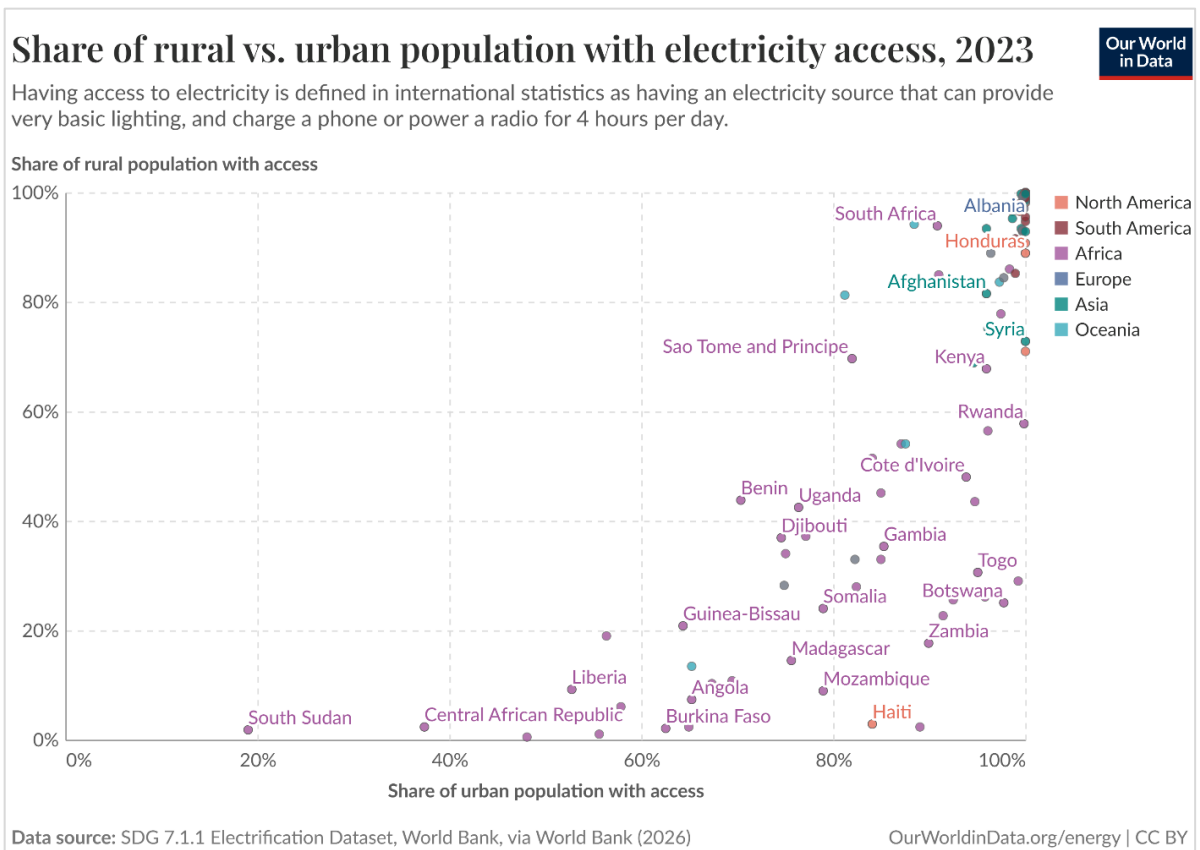


Figure 1: Share of rural vs. urban population with electricity access

In general, new connections in denser, urban environment benefit more people. At the same time, decentralized access (mostly through solar/ photovoltaic electricity, but also other off-grid solutions) has recently become more affordable also in rural areas, and the number of beneficiaries grew considerably (385 million in 2023). But according to the World Bank, more data and analysis are needed to determine the rate of deployment of such technologies.¹

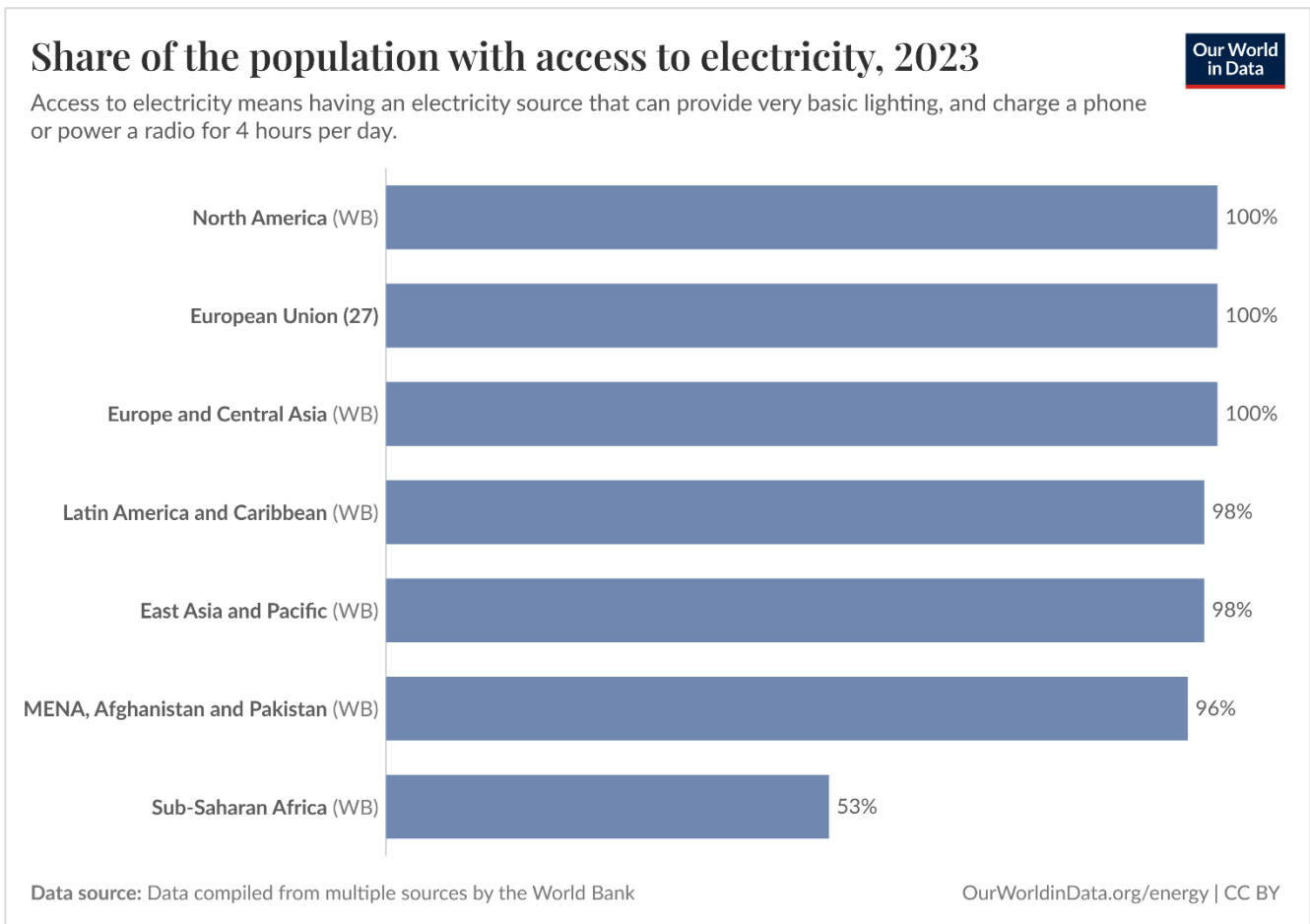


Figure 2: Share of population with access to electricity

The research widely considers reliable access to electricity as a driver of economic development. A considerable body of evidence demonstrates that reliable electricity access in urban areas is a key enabler of economic growth, business development, and job creation, particularly in developing and rapidly urbanizing regions.² However, there is little evidence that quantifies these effects. Research found that implementing solar photovoltaic, wind energy, hydropower, and bioenergy plus battery storage, can provide 504,000 jobs in 2030 and 4.18 million jobs in 2050,³ but this quantification cannot reliably be generalized geographically or to different types of electricity supply.

The typical effects of reliable electricity supply constitute drivers on the employment market. Qualitatively, most of the reviewed literature suggests that reliable supply reduces business interruptions, supports the expansion of small and medium enterprises (SMEs), and underpins the growth of energy-intensive sectors:

business interruptions and their costs are reduced. A study in China found that a single large-power outage resulted in business interruption costs of over EUR 171 million with 70% of the losses occurring within 24 hours. Evidence from other countries showed that manufacturing businesses are willing to pay more for electricity to reduce interruptions, since they disrupt operations and affect productivity. An empirical study in the Philippines showed that local government revenues have decreased considerably, as business revenues dropped due to interruptions.

¹ Tracking SDG 7: The Energy Progress Report 2025 (English). Washington, D.C.: World Bank Group. <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/099062425150569718>

² Dong, X., & Hao, Y. (2018). Would income inequality affect electricity consumption? Evidence from China. *Energy*, 142, 215-227. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ENERGY.2017.10.027>. Also: Mutumba, G., Mubiinzi, G., & Amwonya, D. (2024). Electricity consumption and economic growth: Evidence from the East African community. *Energy Strategy Reviews*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.esr.2024.101431>.

³ Farghali, M., Osman, A., Chen, Z., Abdelhaleem, A., Ihara, I., Mohamed, I., Yap, P., & Rooney, D. (2023). Social, environmental, and economic consequences of integrating renewable energies in the electricity sector: a review. *Environmental Chemistry Letters*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10311-023-01587-1>.

- **Business interruptions and their costs are reduced.** A study in China found that a single large-power outage resulted in business interruption costs of over EUR 171 million with 70% of the losses occurring within 24 hours.⁴ Evidence from other countries showed that manufacturing businesses are willing to pay more for electricity to reduce interruptions, since they disrupt operations and affect productivity. An empirical study in the Philippines showed that local government revenues have decreased considerably, as business revenues dropped due to interruptions.⁵
- **This is directly related to expansion of SMEs,** which, depending on the (sub-)sector, usually have lower margins of profit and are thus sensitive to costs of interruption. Electricity is also often cheaper and therefore more economically practical for SMEs⁶ allowing for higher productivity and more willingness to (re)invest.⁷ For SMEs the impact of reliable urban electricity supply is significant regardless of the sector.
- **Energy-intensive sectors, which are also labour-intensive, are particularly dependent on reliable electricity supply.** Overall, enterprises operating in the sectors more dependent on electricity – manufacturing, services, building – are more likely to benefit from reliable supply and thus generate jobs. Traditionally, energy-intensive industries (coal, steel, vehicle manufacturing) are known as large employers – this is evidenced both in Europe⁸, and from the examples of industrializing nations, like China. These sectors, where large companies often operate, are particularly labour-intensive, which accentuates the positive effects of reliable electricity supply on the job market. Yet, there is a caveat in the literature, that some of the modern energy-intensive enterprises do not lead to large scale expansion in employment: data centres being the typical example.

Importantly, the expansion of the electricity sector itself creates significant number of jobs – be it for the expansion of grids (construction, operations, maintenance), construction of the energy stations, but also renewable energy generation, which is often quoted as a leading source of new jobs, especially in economies in transition to cleaner power.⁹ It should be noted through, that the clean energy transition also destroys jobs in older industries, including electricity generation, posing a distinct set of challenges to decision-makers.

Conversely, unreliable supply and frequent outages are associated with significant welfare losses including due to unemployment, among other reasons because of reduced productivity, and directly constrained employment opportunities.¹⁰ Reduced reliability of electricity supply also leads to lower industrial growth and shifts in industrial composition towards less energy-intensive (and often less labour-intensive) sectors (services, light manufacturing, non-industrialised agriculture), further constraining job opportunities.¹¹

3 RELIABLE PROVISION OF ELECTRICITY AND JOB CREATION ARE LINKED THROUGH ECONOMIC GROWTH

The evidence on the direct link between reliable electricity supply and job creation needs to be nuanced. Multiple studies confirm a strong link between reliable electricity supply and economic growth in urban areas, which in turn supports higher employment rates. Some of these studies, however, do not directly measure electricity supply: they use electricity consumption as a proxy for reliable supply, then examine the correlation with economic growth, and the indirect effects on employment. It has to be noted, that due to the drive to gain in energy efficiency, and changes in the structure of economy, economic growth and energy consumption are not necessarily correlated.

⁴ Chen, H., Yan, H., Gong, K., Geng, H., & Yuan, X. (2021). Assessing the business interruption costs from power outages in China. *Energy Economics*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eneco.2021.105757>.

⁵ Francisco, K., & Abrigo, M. (2024). Electricity Supply Interruptions and Its Impact on Local Economies. <https://doi.org/10.62986/dp2023.49>.

⁶ Frederick, D., & Selase, A. (2014). The Effect of Electric Power Fluctuations on the Profitability and Competitiveness of SMEs: A Study of SMEs within the Accra Business District of Ghana. *Journal of Cryptology*, 6, 32-48. <https://doi.org/10.7441/JOC.2014.03.03>.

⁷ Ajibola, A., Sodeinde, G., Aderemi, T., & Yusuf, M. (2021). Impact of Electricity Supply on the Performance of Small and Medium-Scale Enterprises (SMEs) in Nigeria: A Case Study. *Economic Insights – Trends and Challenges*. <https://doi.org/10.51865/eitc.2021.04.02>.

⁸ McDowall, W., Reinauer, T., Fragkos, P., Miedzinski, M., & Cronin, J. (2023). Mapping regional vulnerability in Europe's energy transition: development and application of an indicator to assess declining employment in four carbon-intensive industries. *Climatic Change*, 176, 1-23. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10584-022-03478-w>.

⁹ Ram, M., Aghahosseini, A., & Breyer, C. (2020). Job creation during the global energy transition towards 100% renewable power system by 2050. *Technological Forecasting and Social Change*, 151, 119682. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.TECHFORE.2019.06.008>.

¹⁰ Aweke, A., & Navrud, S. (2022). Valuing energy poverty costs: Household welfare loss from electricity blackouts in developing countries. *Energy Economics*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eneco.2022.105943>.

¹¹ Adofo, J. (2020). Electrification, Power Outages and Employment. *Applied Economics and Finance*, 7, 147-159. <https://doi.org/10.11114/aef.v7i4.4919>.

Strong evidence exists that electricity consumption boosts economic growth, with over 75% of reviewed cases in one study showing clear positive relationship between increased electricity consumption, which often implies reliability improvements, and regional economic growth. This relationship is facilitated by what the study describes as a “two-way loop”: economic growth drives demand for electricity while the reliable supply supports further growth.¹²

Examples: In selected African countries, increased electricity consumption was shown to drive economic growth, with a unidirectional relationship from electricity to economic expansion.¹³ In Nigeria, increased electricity consumption is shown to drive economic growth, which was closely linked to higher employment rates in urban contexts. In China, urbanization and increased electricity consumption are closely tied to rising incomes and economic development, which are prerequisites for job creation.¹⁴

4 UNRELIABLE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY HURTS BOTH EMPLOYMENT AND WELFARE

Unreliable electricity supply, characterized by frequent blackouts, leads to significant welfare losses and reduced employment opportunities. In urban Ethiopia, households experiencing frequent blackouts reported a willingness to pay a substantial premium to avoid outages, reflecting the high value placed on reliable supply for both household welfare and economic activity.¹⁵

Urban SMEs are especially vulnerable to supply interruptions, which can lead to reduced hours, lower earnings, and job losses. The negative effect of unreliable supply is therefore particularly pronounced for SMEs, which are more vulnerable to disruptions and less able to invest in backup solutions. This, in turn, disproportionately affects SME’s ability to ensure self-employment and employment.

4.1 RELIABLE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT FOR URBAN SMES

The employment benefits of reliable supply are distributed unevenly. Poorer households and those in rapidly urbanizing regions experiencing the greatest gains from improved reliability.¹⁶

The employment effects of reliable electricity are particularly pronounced in certain sectors and enterprise types: this includes sectors with high electricity dependence, such as manufacturing, services, and SMEs in general. In Sub-Saharan Africa more generally, access to reliable electricity is identified as a prerequisite for economic transformation and job creation, especially when combined with policies that promote productive use and affordability.¹⁷ Affordability, and other elements of access to energy in energy-poor regions were shown in an empirical multi-regional study to positively affect human development, with increased access to employment being one of the crucial mediating factors.¹⁸

¹² Shakouri, H., Pandey, S., Rahmatian, F., & Paaso, E. (2023). Does the increased electricity consumption (provided by capacity expansion and/or reliability improvement) cause economic growth?. *Energy Policy*. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0301421523002896?via%3Dihub>

¹³ Mutumba, G., Mubiinzi, G., & Amwonya, D. (2024). Electricity consumption and economic growth Evidence from the East African community. *Energy Strategy Reviews*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.esr.2024.101431>.

¹⁴ Xie, L., Yan, H., Zhang, S., & Wei, C. (2020). Does urbanization increase residential energy use? Evidence from the Chinese residential energy consumption survey 2012. *China Economic Review*, 59, 101374. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chieco.2019.101374>.

¹⁵ Aweke, A., & Navrud, S. (2022). Valuing energy poverty costs: Household welfare loss from electricity blackouts in developing countries. *Energy Economics*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eneco.2022.105943>.

¹⁶ Pereira, D., & Marques, A. (2023). How do energy forms impact energy poverty? An analysis of European degrees of urbanisation. *Energy Policy*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.enpol.2022.113346>.

¹⁷ Acheampong, A., Shahbaz, M., Dzator, J., & Jiao, Z. (2022). Effects of income inequality and governance on energy poverty alleviation: Implications for sustainable development policy. *Utilities Policy*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jup.2022.101403>.

¹⁸ Acheampong, A. O., Erdiaw-Kwasie, M. O., & Abunyewah, M. (2021). Does energy accessibility improve human development? Evidence from energy-poor regions. *Energy Economics*, 96, Article 105165. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eneco.2021.105165>

5 KEY FACTORS OF IMPACT

The effect of reliable electricity on employment is modulated by factors including urbanization stage, income inequality, governance, energy policy, and the adoption of renewable energy technologies.¹⁹ Some research also suggests that electrification alone “is not enough to improve economic outcomes substantially for the world’s poorest citizens.”²⁰ The same research suggests that “substantial heterogeneity” exists in, particularly, the economic impact of electrification of households. Since the economic outcomes are significantly expressed through employment, the quality of the employment (in terms of salaries, working conditions, stability of employment, access to rights, time span/ existence of the created jobs, etc.), determined by factors other than electricity supply, is contributing to such “heterogeneity.”

The degree of impact of reliable electricity on employment is also shaped by multiple factors, among which the reviewed research body particularly identifies:

- **Urbanization Stage:** The effect of electricity reliability on employment is strongest in regions undergoing rapid urbanization and economic growth.²¹ Still some studies show that the urbanization factor plays a considerably different way across regions, with Sub-Saharan Africa experiencing rapid urbanization and resulting in decreased residential consumption, due to higher population density, improved infrastructure and energy efficiency gains, while developing regions in Asia and the Middle East & North Africa experience increased consumption.²²
- **Infrastructure complementarity:** Studies indicate that the enhancements in electricity infrastructure are amplifying employment across the sectors better, when they are combined with reliable transmission and distribution as well as adequate electricity tariff systems, especially development of the road and rail infrastructure. This was specifically shown for Sub-Saharan Africa.²³ In other words, the employment usefulness of electricity supplies increases where other infrastructural investments are also made.
- **Income Inequality and Governance:** Income inequality can limit access to reliable electricity, while effective governance and targeted policies are crucial for maximizing employment benefits.²⁴ Energy forms and different ways of energy consumption with varying levels of energy efficiency – e.g. fossil/ non-fossil electricity, gas, oil, wood, biofuels - have differing impacts on energy poverty, on the environment, and on economic prosperity, with most studies suggesting residential electricity consumption being key in reducing both poverty and energy poverty in cities. Yet it is pointed out, that in rural areas, imposing the compulsory switch from primary energy sources (wood, biomass) to electricity, may increase the risk of energy poverty for some households.²⁵ There is little research on whether the costs of such energy transition will be compensated by job creation, and over what period of time.
- **Energy Policy and Renewables:** The adoption of renewable energy technologies and supportive policy environments amplify the positive effects of reliable electricity supply on job creation.²⁶ According to several studies, utilisation of and transition to the renewables show greater job growth, both in installation and operation.²⁷

¹⁹ Acheampong, A., Shahbaz, M., Dzator, J., & Jiao, Z. (2022). Effects of income inequality and governance on energy poverty alleviation: Implications for sustainable development policy. *Utilities Policy*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jup.2022.101403>.

²⁰ Lee, K., Miguel, E., & Wolfram, C. (2020). Does Household Electrification Supercharge Economic Development? *The Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 34(1), 122–144. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/26873532>

²¹ Liu, X., Sun, T., Feng, Q., & Zhang, D. (2020). Dynamic nonlinear influence of urbanization on China’s electricity consumption: Evidence from dynamic economic growth threshold effect. *Energy*, 196, 117187.

²² Wang, Q., Lin, J., Zhou, K., Fan, J., & Kwan, M. (2020). Does urbanization lead to less residential energy consumption? A comparative study of 136 countries. *Energy*, 202, 117765.

²³ Abbasi, M., Lebrand, M., Mongoue, A., Pongou, R., & Zhang, F. (2022). Roads, Electricity, and Jobs: Evidence of Infrastructure Complementarity in Sub-Saharan Africa. *Policy Research Working Papers*. <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/37201>

²⁴ Rasoolimanesh, S., Badarulzaman, N., Abdullah, A., & Behrang, M. (2019). How governance influences the components of sustainable urban development?. *Journal of Cleaner Production*.

²⁵ Pereira, D., & Marques, A. (2023). How do energy forms impact energy poverty? An analysis of European degrees of urbanisation. *Energy Policy*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.enpol.2022.113346>.

²⁶ Yatzkan, O., Cohen, R., Yaniv, E., & Rotem-Mindali, O. (2025). Urban Energy Transitions: A Systematic Review. *Land*. <https://www.mdpi.com/2073-445X/14/3/566>

²⁷ Sovacool, B., Evensen, D., Kwan, T., & Petit, V. (2023). Building a green future: Examining the job creation potential of electricity, heating, and storage in low-carbon buildings. *The Electricity Journal*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tej.2023.107274> and Farghali, M. et al (2023). Social, environmental, and economic consequences of integrating renewable energies in the electricity sector: a review. *Environmental Chemistry Letters*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10311-023-01587-1>.

- **Provision models:** There are indications that stronger public sector role in electricity provision – especially in under-served areas – is important for impact on employment. In the 1990s, South Africa, fragmented and inequitable provision through municipal energy agencies and multiple private providers, as opposed to more centralized generation and distribution hamstrung the employment potential of the employment efforts.²⁸ Yet, some more recent research suggests that off-the-grid, small community or individual solutions (e.g. wind, solar) may partially alleviate such negative effects.^{29 30}

6 RELIABILITY OF EVIDENCE AND GAPS

The review of the evidence provides different degrees of reliability of specific statements and findings provided above: the degree of reliability of some of the particular claims is reflected in the table below.

CLAIM	STRENGTH	REASONING
Reliable urban electricity provision increases local employment rates	Strong	Multiple studies show strong links between reliable supply, economic growth, and jobs (but often use proxy indicators)
Unreliable supply (outages) reduces employment and welfare	Moderate	Empirical evidence from Ethiopia and global reviews on negative impacts
Renewable energy integration amplifies job creation	Moderate	Systematic reviews and modelling show millions of new jobs from renewables globally, but the caveat remains due to small number of such studies
Income inequality and governance mediate access and impact	Moderate	Panel data and comparative studies highlight the importance of policy and inequality
Urbanization stage influences effect size	Moderate	Effects are strongest in rapidly urbanizing, lower-income regions, limited studies, mostly in South Africa
Effects are less pronounced in highly developed, stable regions	Moderate	Diminishing returns in highly urbanized, high-income contexts, China studies, mostly

The review shows there is a strong consensus about the positive effects of electricity provision on the job market, but little evidence on precisely quantifying these effects, and limited evidence on qualifying these effects. There is also a caveat, which could weaken the validity of the consensus: a 2020 systematic review of literature on linkage between access to electricity and economic growth shows that most studies finding a positive correlation have been observational (84%), rather than experimental, and that observational studies are much more likely than experimental ones to find a positive impact.³¹

The rapid review also shows that there is limited research on the long-term, causal impact of electricity reliability on employment in different urban contexts, especially in low- and middle-income countries. The distributional effects across income groups, genders, and sectors are also underexplored, as is the role of governance and policy in mediating these effects.

The diagram below is an empirical attempt to visualise the state of evidence as observed and synthesized in the sources reviewed. It is not meant as an orientation on the robustness of evidence (based on the amount of sources and their assessed quality), and of whether major rifts were observed in the sources.

²⁸ Théron, P. (1991). Public and private sector involvement in the provision of electricity in urban areas of South Africa. <https://open.uct.ac.za/items/04ef49ab-a56a-4d85-afb7-39557bdc9c3e>

²⁹ Tsafos, N., & Carey, L. (2020). Success Story #1: Village Electrification. In Energy Transition Strategies: Gujarat's Low-Carbon Development Pathway (pp. 7–11). Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). <http://www.jstor.org/stable/resrep26070.5>

³⁰ MINI-GRIDS INDIA'S RENEWABLE ENERGY GOALS: FACTS ABOUT PROGRESS MADE TILL 2022, Jan. 1, 2022, pp. 73-84 <https://www.jstor.org/stable/resrep40015.8>

³¹ Bayer, Patrick, Ryan Kennedy, Joonseok Yang, Johannes Urpelainen, (2020). The need for impact evaluation in electricity access research, Energy Policy, Volume 137.

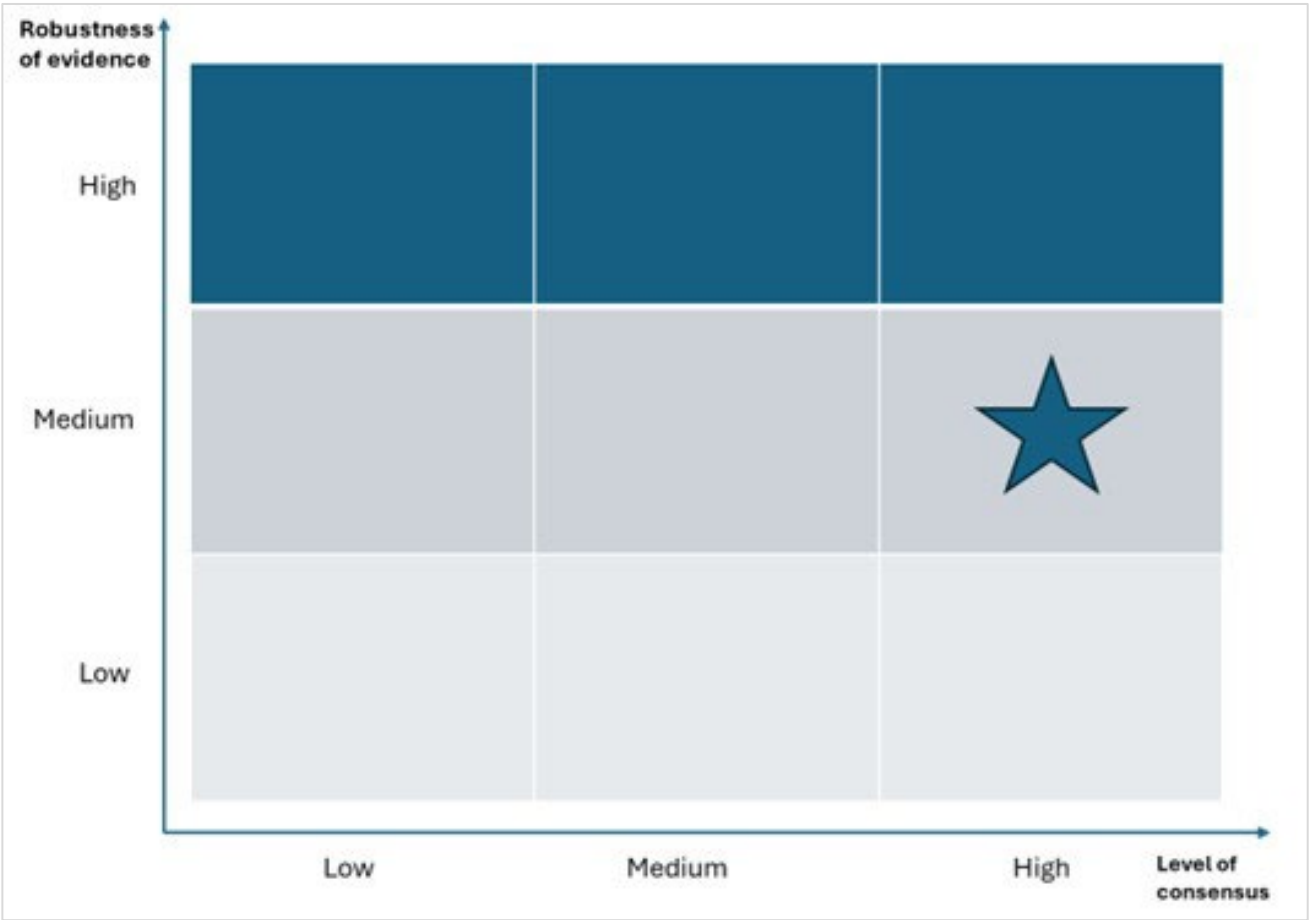


Figure 3: Visualisation of the state of evidence deduced from the review by the reviewer

\ ABOUT THIS EVIDENCE REVIEW

The evidence review was prepared by drawing on two academic databases: Academia and JSTOR. Additionally, Consensus AI was used to conduct a query-driven search in the database of academic papers, and so-called “grey literature” i.e. reports and publications by international organizations. 1039 relevant papers were identified as broadly falling within the criteria, and 428 were filtered by the date of publication, relevance and scope. Out of these, 35 top papers, out of which five from the “grey literature” (World Bank, CSIS, Energy Policy Research Group) were selected based on topical relevance and quality (as defined as being published in peer-reviewed or specialist sources and citation rate) out of which 29 are quoted in the text. The effort was made to have geographic representation, although the recent large scale empirical studies do focus on China, which has experienced relatively recent industrial development and where the government has been undertaking a deliberate and planned energy transition (therefore soliciting research). Research papers related to sub-Saharan Africa, India, Ethiopia, South Africa were included.

\ ABOUT THE RAPID EVIDENCE REVIEWS

What are Rapid Evidence Reviews?

Rapid Evidence Reviews (RERs) are concise syntheses of available evidence. They are commissioned by the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs' (SECO) Economic Cooperation and Development division. Each RER provides a structured and rigorous overview of available evidence on a topic relevant to SECO Economic Cooperation and Development's portfolio, more systematic than a traditional literature review, yet more resource-efficient than a full systematic review. Inspired by international good practice in rapid evidence synthesis, RERs are designed to bridge the gap between research and operational practice.

Purpose and Use

RERs are produced on demand for SECO Economic Cooperation and Development's operational units to address concrete evidence needs arising from programming decisions. They are designed to be actionable and timely, integrating evidence into real-time decision-making rather than focusing solely on retrospective experience and reporting. RERs synthesise evidence from academic literature, grey literature such as publications by multilateral organisations, and evaluation reports. They draw on research portals' resources, as well as established databases such as the 3ie Development Evidence Portal and DEval's Rigorous Evidence Database, as well as SECO's own evaluation knowledge. The service was piloted in 2025 and intends to produce up to four reviews per year.

Production and Quality Assurance

RERs are produced within the framework of the GOPA/CEval's backstopping mandate (2025-2028) on behalf of SECO Economic Cooperation and Development's Quality and Resource section (SECO-WEQA). Research questions are co-constructed by SECO operational units, WEQA, and the backstopping team. The evidence search strategy and inclusion criteria are developed by the backstopping team and coordinated with SECO-WEQA. Each review undergoes internal quality assurance and is reviewed by WEQA staff prior to publication. Reviews are produced by the backstopping team, requiring typically approximately 12 – 15 working days from the point at which the research question has been defined to finalisation. The backstopping team bears full responsibility for the accuracy and correctness of the reviews.

The RER Series

This document is part of an ongoing series of Rapid Evidence Reviews covering topics across SECO's eight business lines, including economic policy, trade, infrastructure, private sector development, and skills. Published RERs are made available through ARAMIS, the research database of the Swiss Federal Administration.

For further information on the RER service, please contact we.evaluation@seco.admin.ch.