

GAD AS MAINSTREAMED IN THE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF POWER PLANTS IN REMOTE MISSIONARY AREAS

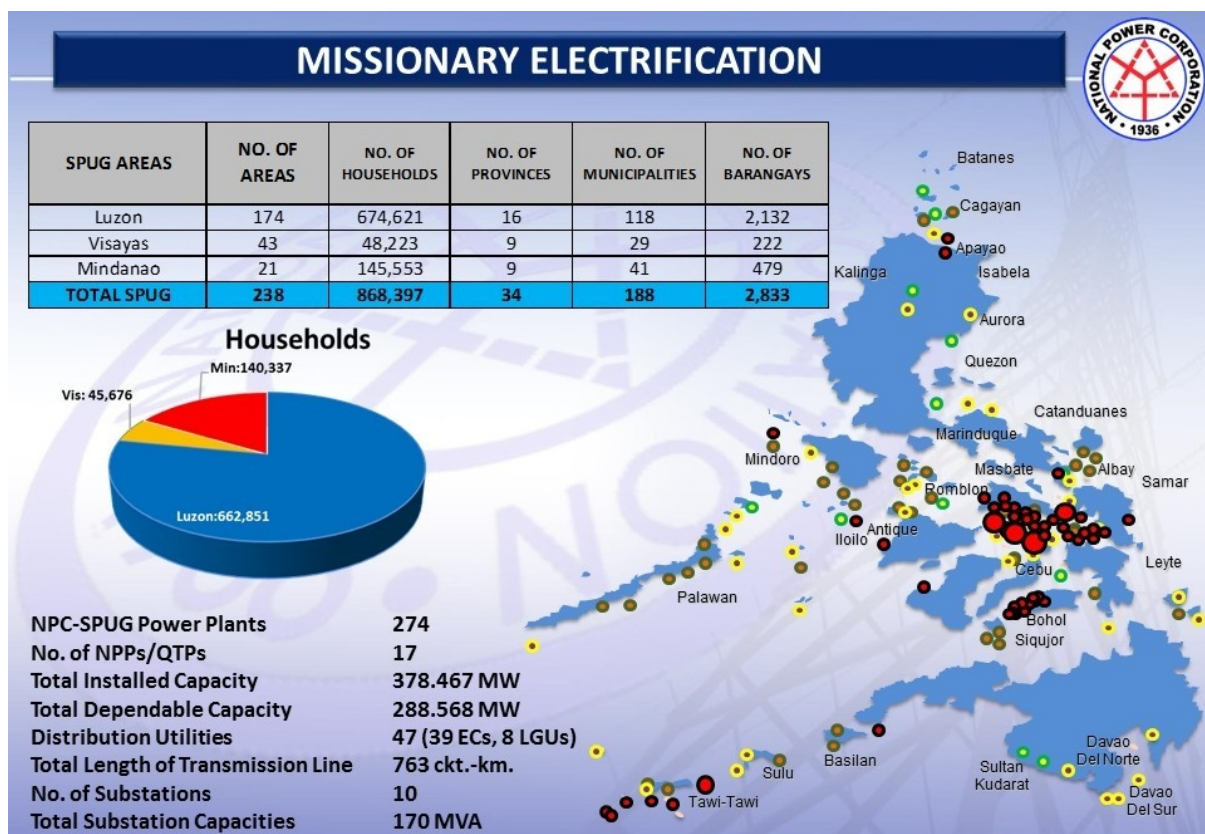
With the changing landscape of the energy sector toward an era of active participation of men and women in pursuing growth and development for the country, the **National Power Corporation (NPC) through the Small Power Utilities Group (SPUG) is tasked to perform missionary electrification functions by providing power generation and its associated power delivery systems in areas that are not connected to the transmission system to help pave way rural progress.**

Supporting the Department of Energy's (DOE) commitment to the achievement of UN's **Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG7): *Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all***, NPC reinforces DOE's active engagement in turning awareness of gender issues into tangible results that address the different needs of women and men when it comes to energy infrastructure, technology, and services through gender-responsive planning and budgeting. Access issues include women and men facing different opportunities to access, participate in, and control resources and benefits, possibly due to gender tracking or stereotypes.

Aimed to address the issue on the lack of access to energy services in far-flung communities not connected to the main grid, SPUG plays the pivotal role of providing basic and reliable power services to rural residents, community facilities, such as school buildings, health centers, barangay halls (and roads) and streetlights, to name a few with an ultimate aim of bringing the operations to viability levels. The socioeconomic impact of the investments in off-grid power resources help maximize gender and socially-inclusive economic development benefits in the missionary areas through energy-based livelihood enhancement and employment generation in the island and rural communities.

Equally important with rural progress, the benefits of the Gender and Development (GAD) aspect in SPUG's function are focused in women and children, particularly those living in poverty, as the primary consumers of energy in home. Women are likely to know how energy is used and conserved, as they are the ones burdened to find other energy sources to be able to provide care and food for the whole household. This responsibility is often at the expense of their health and livelihood activities. Although sometimes not recognized, women also play an active role in implementing energy programs and projects. Thus, it is necessary that women's voices are heard and considered in plans and programs concerning energy and its renewable sources because these affect them in immediate and practical ways.

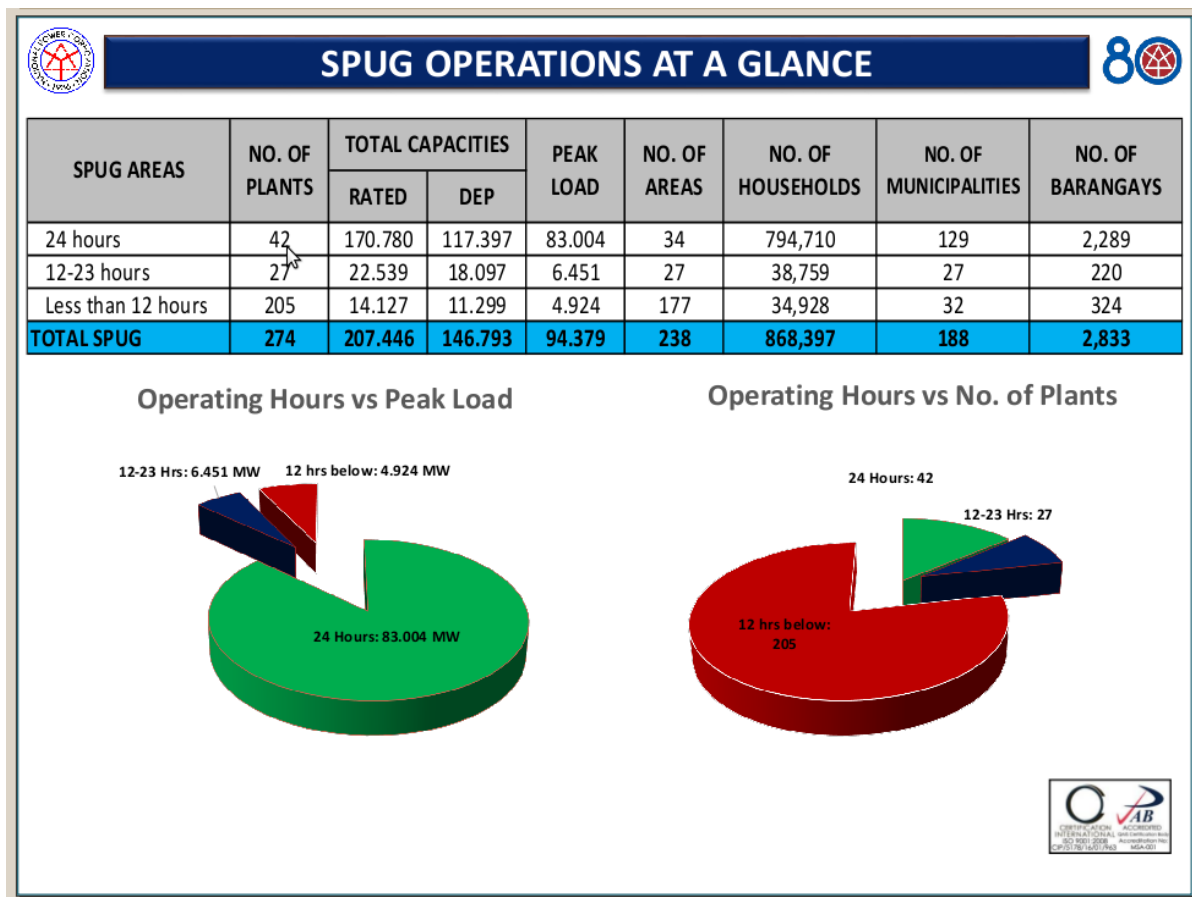
As presented in the following table, SPUG currently serve 2,833 barangays located in far-flung remote areas around the country. With a total of 274 diesel power plants and 10 substations in 238 off-grid areas, **NPC is able to provide power generation to 868,397 households nationwide; and with an average of two (2) female in each household, approximately 1.6 million Filipino women are benefited with access to energy services.**



NPC works on its vision of inclusive growth and greater energy access and recognizes that women and men could equally contribute to and benefit from these outcomes. Management of each power installation are in close coordination with the LGUs, barangays, sitio and community/people groups in addressing the gender needs of women and men regarding access to energy. With the objective of ensuring resources, services, and facilities are made available to women and men, focus is given in giving greater access to women because women's entitlements are generally more limited than men.

To help realize inclusive growth and greater energy access, NPC under the 2020 – 2024 Missionary Electrification Plan (MEP) needs to achieve 100% Electrification of targeted/identified un-electrified households (Based on 2015 Census) in all missionary areas by 2020 and ensure 24/7 operations of all NPC-SPUG plants by 2022.

As of 2019, 34 out of 238 missionary areas are provided with 24-hour unhampered operation serving 794,710 households or 91.5% of total 868,397 households currently served by SPUG (as shown below).



RENEWABLE ENERGY

The Philippine Development Plan 2011–2016 identified “unreliable power supply” together with inefficient transport network, as “the most significant infrastructure constraints on overall growth” (NEDA 2011, 22). Power-supply problems exacerbate “energy poverty” issues, or issues related to the lack of access to affordable modern energy services. Uncertainties brought about by “dwindling nonrenewable energy resources” (oil and gas), geopolitical factors that trigger oil price shocks, and climate change also seriously threaten people’s energy access (ADB 2012, 2). All these give rise to, or can be associated with, issues related to gender, energy access, or control, participation, and empowerment.

Hence, under the 2020 – 2024 Missionary Electrification Plan (MEP), NPC is tasked to adopt energy efficiency programs and technologies and pursue the use of renewable energy in missionary areas. **An additional 97,639 households (as shown below) with approximately 195,278 Filipino women will benefit from the renewable energy.** 90 new electrified areas will be added to the existing 238 totaling to 328 missionary areas by 2021.

III. 2020-2024 MISSIONARY ELECTRIFICATION PLAN

Additional Households

YEAR	NO. OF PLANTS	NEW AREAS	RENEWABLE ENERGY	HOUSEHOLDS
2018	272	4		2,261
2019	276	22	1-Hybrid	8,545
2020	298	40	17-Hybrid	26,131
2021	338	24	7-Hybrid 20-PV Mainstreaming	27,520
2022	382		8-Hybrid 37-PV Mainstreaming	16,870
2023	419		8-Hybrid	9,259
2024	419		8-Hybrid	7,053
TOTAL		90	49-Hybrid 57-PV Mainstreaming	97,639