# Human Trafficking Risks and Energy Poverty

An Observation in Greater Mekong sub-region (GMS)

Yunxiao HE, Senior Social Specialist, Asia Program Advisor, Four Corners October 8, 2019

### **Human Trafficking**

- \$150 billion profit a year
- \$99 billion from commercial sexual exploitation.
- <u>GMS</u> = hotspot of Human trafficking
- 71% victims are <u>women and</u> girls.

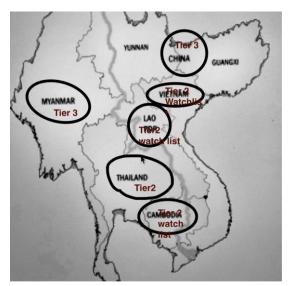




Women and girls count majority of HT victims







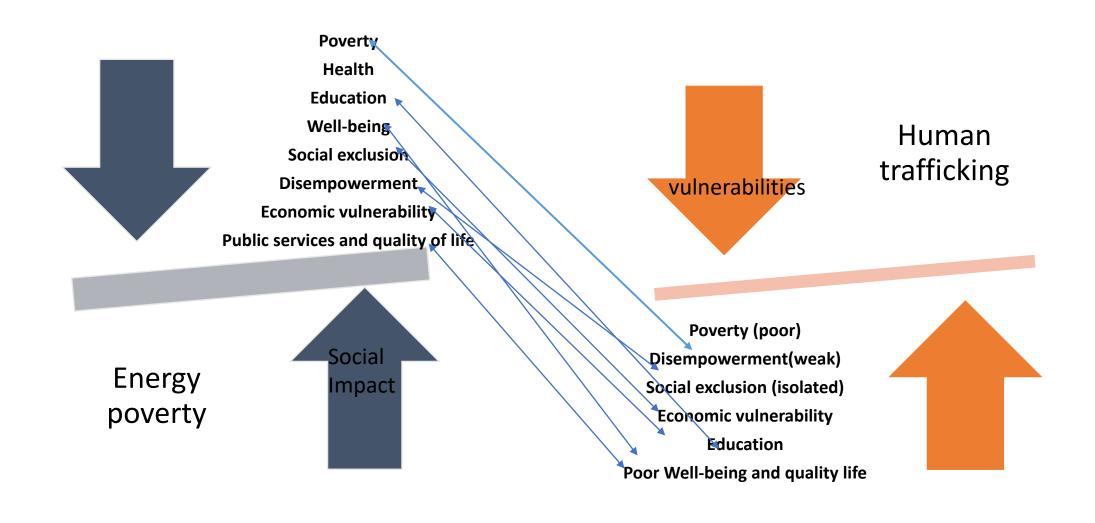
**GMS** countries with challenging Human Trafficking issues



GMS countries with serious energy poverty issues

#### Geographic link of Human Trafficking and Energy Poverty in the GMS

- China, Myanmar, Lao PDR, Cambodia and Vietnam are ranked by U.S State Department and UN as countries with great HT challenges
- Cambodia has only about 50% electricity access nationwide (World Bank (2018)). Due to high tariff and connection cost, a much higher percentage of the households are not be able to afford to be connected to the grid -ASEAN Post 2018
- A significant number of households in Laos still do not have access to electricity and cannot afford to meet both necessity and energy consumption -Energy Policy 2019



Social Links of Human trafficking and Energy Poverty



Power to Poor

**Electricity Transforms Women's Lives:** Ms. Phan's story

Women's empowerment and inclusion through providing loan to increase affordability of the women-headed households in Lao PDR

Power to empower

https://www.youtube.com/watc h?v=h-DY3T 1RPI



## Power to empower

Vietnam Renewable Energy Development Project

Empower and include women through intra-household survey to address women's needs and concerns.

### Way forward



In remote HT source areas of GMS, construction of state grid may be costly for some countries. Renewable rural electrification is a workable option. Micro-hydro/solar farm/village grid/solar panel?



Energy Projects consider the affordability of the affected households when look for the renewable and clean energy options.



Energy Projects analyze vulnerabilities of human trafficking in the Poverty and Social analysis, support awareness efforts, and pay special attention to labor influx and GBV impacts

### Thank you















From Barefoot

Xiao.he@4cmc.ca