SOGERV Needs Assessment Results

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Summary

As part of the SOGERV Project, a community needs assessment was carried out in Gola, Kandeu, Mandrade, and Thendo – target villages located in Chikwawa district, Malawi. The approach taken utilizes a component of the *People First: Determining priorities for community development* (Schutte, 2000). The P-Index, captured importance and priority of needs for different population groups within the community (men, women, leadership, youth etc.) and mapped to general categories of need (health, infrastructure, etc.). This report presents the P-Index scores as well as the issues provided by the communities.

All villages have valid energy needs with specific issues they are trying to address. Commonly it included provision of lighting at schools, teacher homes, and for businesses. Outside of energy, there are many challenges facing the communities from poor road networks, distances to public facilities (including secondary schools and health centres with maternal care wards), food shortages, and lack of nearby boreholes for water supply. In our attempt to better organize the results into categories, such as schools and clinics, it is important to note that the challenges faced by the communities are often linked to each other. This complexity means that the results we find can only be considered the starting point for better understanding of the community needs.

The report will be used by SOGERV to investigate renewable energy interventions in the target villages. Non-energy related issues will be channeled to Village Development Committees (VDCs) and the District Council for action.

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1. Approach

1.1.   SOGERV

The Sustainable Off-Grid Electrification of Rural Villages (SOGERV) Project is funded by the Scottish Government and runs from 2015 – 2018. The project is led by the University of Strathclyde and partnered by Concern Universal – Malawi and WASHTED – Polytechnic. The project aims to deploy sustainable off-grid energy projects in Chikwawa district, Southern Malawi, that provide communities with affordable energy access. Overall village needs will be addressed with market-based energy services including: households, businesses, health facilities, and school facilities. In addition to direct impact, the project will produce evidence to better understand the sustainability and scaling implication of similar models.

The project is supported by the Chikwawa District Executive Committee and the Department of Energy Affairs.

1.2.   Background

The community needs assessment is part of the overall community engagement strategy, which is led by Concern Universal. Community engagement, buy-in to the project, and acceptance of its models is required for the sustainability of the project. The objective of the needs assessment is to produce self- and community-generated needs by each community. This is then used by the project to target energy interventions to address these needs.

This is assumed to elevate the relevance of the project for the communities. Furthermore, since ongoing support and acceptance by the community is critical for long-term sustainability, addressing real needs will ensure continued community support and contribute to the local development process.

1.3.   Methodology

Initially, the SOGERV team defined the community engagement approach which would be employed in SOGERV, including a needs assessment approach. Although there are numerous options for needs assessment approaches, the team decided to build on the approach taken by the Scotland Chikwawa Health Initiative (SCHI) / Healthy Settings project[1], which utilized a the People First: Determining priorities for community development (Schutte, 2000). For this needs assessment, the SORGERV team utilized the P-Index (see below for more information). It was hoped that results could be used more widely for research purposes and had the advantage of providing a uniform approach throughout the district.

The team followed the P-Index guide within the manual (Schutte, 2000) for identification for community needs.

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[1] http://www.strath.ac.uk/malawi/projects/chikwawaproject/healthysettings/
  Schutte De W. People First. Determining priorities for community development: Ebony Books, Parow East, South Africa; 2000.

Field work was completed in October / November 2015. Each location required 1-day for compilation of data. Results were compiled within an excel based database and analyzed.   Individual Scores can be made on request.

1.4.   P-Index

The P-Index is a tool that can be used within a community development process which requires a more systematic approach to determining needs. Its strengths are that it is relatively simple to implement and understand, is effective at revealing actual needs, and can be conducted with respondents who are illiterate.

In brief, the process involves formation followed by independent consultations with specific sub-groups within the community (Men, women, elderly, leadership, etc.) to elicit sub-group issues. Results are categorized into main challenges (i.e. Clinic, School, Roads, etc.) and synthesized by the main community group. Then a representative from each sub-group will score both importance and satisfaction for each main challenge area. Scores are compiled using a simple tool which on the side facing the responded show dots which varying level of density and on the side facing the enumerator has a number scale from 1 to 11.

Figure 1: Needs Assessment underway using scale

Priorities are represented as P-Index scores as shown in Table 1.   The P-index is the difference between the importance score and satisfaction score. Each sub-group scoring can be averaged into a single P-Index score for a community. A low P-Index score, for example 1.00, indicates low importance and high satisfaction, which can be interpreted as a low priority. A high score of over 6 indicates high importance and low satisfaction. Middle scores around 3 to 5 indicate either medium importance and low satisfaction *or* high importance and medium satisfaction. While this approach provides a rough estimation of priorities, each result must be interpreted individually.

Table 1: P-Index General Score Interpretation

P-Index Score Range	Interpretation
1.00 – 5.00 (Low)	Importance Satisfaction ~~~ **Priority** ~~~ High importance and moderate satisfaction – **Lower priority**
5.00 – 10.00 (High)	Importance Satisfaction ~~~~~~ **Priority** ~~~~~~ High Importance and low satisfaction – **Higher Priority**

1.5.   Limitations

Several limitations emerged throughout the needs assessment process including: low experience with P-Index, piloting approach, and priming due to introduction of the project prior to doing the P-index.

Although the team had completed needs assessments previously using alternative approaches, this was the first attempt to conduct a P-Index based approach. Experience in the SCHI has refined the approach defined in the manual as the strengths and weaknesses became better known. There are many such issues from how to handle power dynamics, logistics of capturing scores, and probing approaches, for example. The team utilized the manual-based approach. It is assumed that no biases or errors were introduced due to this issue, but without training it is impossible to determine what level of error, if any, can be attributed.

Piloting of the needs assessment was held at one of the actual project locations (Mandrade) and then repeated for the 'real thing' later on. It is uncertain what this approach may have had on the responses of the pilot and actual exercise. It is possible that participants, knowing what the process entailed, were able provide more accurate responses. On the other hand, changes in responses could have occurred in between as participants talked about process (unobservable by the team) or aggrandized the response to try to appeal to the research team.

Finally, the biggest issue which likely introduced a bias was the timing in which the needs assessment was conducted in relation to the project sensitization. The team introduced the project and general objectives, which were energy in nature, prior to the needs assessment. All projects ranked energy as the greatest need.   Given the results, it appears highly likely that participants artificially boosted their importance and priority scores for energy than might otherwise be reported. It must be assumed that these scores are biased and should therefore not be considered a reliable estimator for energy need. Despite this limitation, there is additional evidence to support the energy need in the community including, data from a baseline that was held previously indicated low energy use, high dependency on wood fuel and dry-cell batteries, and very low connection to electricity sources such as solar PV. Furthermore, inspection of the needs given which included many energy-related items (such as lighting

for children to study), are still highly relevant and would justify a significant P-index score. The results herein report the scores nonetheless but will indicate (with a *) when we assume this bias invalidates the score.

2. Results

The following section presents priority index needs assessment results on a village by village basis. It is intended that each section could be printed and shared with the community and relevant stakeholders for future consideration of development activities.

All the communities had very high P-Index scores in general that were justified for the many challenges facing their community. Introduction of energy can address several of the identified challenges, but is not sufficient to address all of the needs – for example, lack of structures at schools, poor quality roads/infrastructure, lack of nearby water supplies, and absence of maternal services at the health facilities. It was resoundingly clear that a dedicated approach is needed by communities to address the full extent of needs in the long-term.

From the results, it can be generally observed that the four communities have some similar reoccurring challenges. All four communities are in remote and hard to reach areas and in the same district which makes them to face similar challenges such as a lack of electricity for lighting. In addition, Chikwawa district was greatly affected by flooding in the previous rainy season, this has led to food shortage in the district. Finally, the communities are under one district governing structure (Chikwawa District Council) which is responsible for basic service provision like health and education. A lack of resources to support these services at the district level will therefore affect all the communities.

2.1. Gola

The Gola P-Index Results are presented in Table 2 and Figure 2. Average P-Index scores for the 4 villages are calculated for all needs which appear in at least 3 locations.

Gola has similar electricity needs as the other villages, but is prioritizing other needs on average lower than other communities. The average P-Index score along all needs in Gola was 6.75.

Outside electricity, the highest P-Index score was for Loans at 7.57. Several of the respondent groups indicated there is no loan facility in the village. Food was scored at 6.57 due to limited availability of farm inputs such as fertilizer and a poor harvest as a result of the heaving flooding in January 2015.

Table 2: Gola Scores

Gola		
Need	**P-Index**	Avg P-Index (Village) Average
*Electricity	9.57	9.49
Loans	7.57	7.77
Food	6.57	7.71
School	6.43	6.88
Road	6.43	7.52
Clinic	6.29	[8.12 Max]
Security	6.00	7.65
Water	5.14	[6.37 Min]

In addition to these relatively high scores, other needs were similarly highly ranked. Even the lowest ranked need, water, was based on the lack of boreholes and the long distance needed to travel to collect the water, expressed by almost all the focus group members.
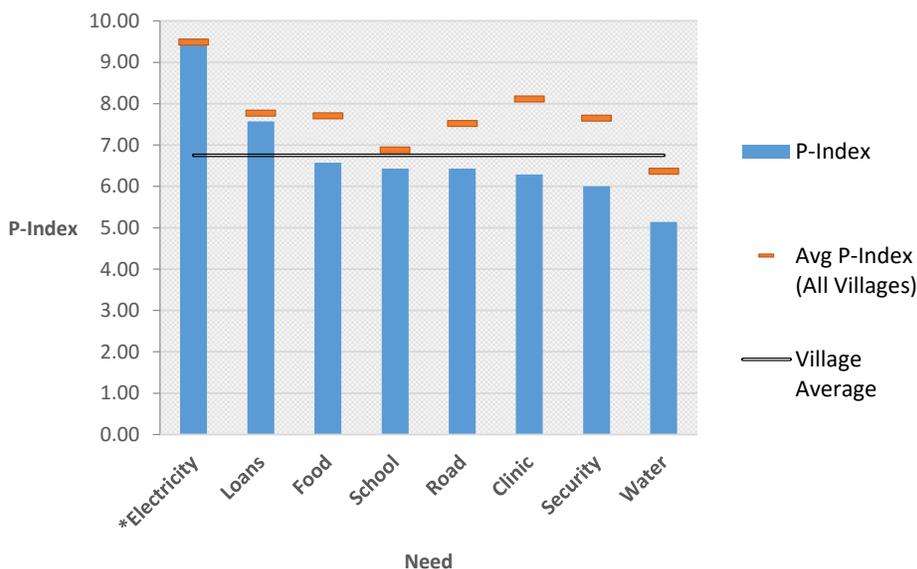
While still a significant need (6.29), is it interesting to note that the clinic had the lowest overall P-Index compared to the other villages. This is because Gola health center is earmarked for maternity services and the room is ready for the services waiting for a nurse and completion of guardian shelter which is under construction right now.

Figure 2: Gola P-Index

In terms of electricity needs and potential areas of focus for SOGERV, the needs assessment revealed a need to provide lighting at the school for studying and business places to offer longer working hours and mobile phone charging, and haircutting services. Although related to schooling, teachers felt that lack of lighting reduced their ability to prepare lesson plans at night, further hampering student performance.

Electricity at the health facility could promote drug storage and respond to the need identified. Furthermore, basic electricity service at health facility staff houses may be a way to attract and retain staff to come and stay at Gola.

Table 3: Gola – Full Needs and Motivating Reasons

ITEM	REASONS
*Electricity	Teachers fail to prepare lessons at night due to lack of lighting sources (Teachers)
	Business people close their business premises as early as six just because of darkness (Business people)
	Difficult to charge their phones and get hair cut because there is no electricity (Business People, Youth)
	Students do not study at night due to lack of lights at school which leads to low pass rates (Chiefs)
Clinic	Lack of staff at the health post - no ambulance for referral cases to district hospital (Women, Chiefs, Men and Vulnerable)
	Lack of drugs at the health centre (Men)
	Distance to a big hospital- people die on their way to the hospital which is about 30 KM away (Disabled and Elderly)
	Lack of maternity wing at the centre which leads to increased maternal deaths and other complications (Women)
School	**Not enough school blocks. Pupils learn under trees which is risky (Vulnerable, Teachers)**
	No Bursary available - due to high poverty levels, some students drop out of school because they cannot manage to pay school fees (Youth, Chiefs)
	Lack of learning and teaching materials especially for the disabled learners (Vulnerable, Teachers)
Road	No tarred roads. A bad road network makes it difficult to travel to Chikwawa especially for business people who go to buy their merchandise. There is no bridge at Mwanza river now because it was washed away by floods- this makes it difficult for NGOs to get to the area and help people (Youths, Business People and Youths)
Food	**Lack of farm inputs such as Fertilizer and seeds (Men and Youths)**
	No enough food in the area because crops were washed away with Floods (Chiefs, Women, Men and Elderly)
Water	Not enough boreholes in the community- boreholes are very far apart requiring walking a long distance to collect water (Women, Chiefs, Teachers, Men and Vulnerable)
Security	Lack of police staff in the area (Men)
Loans	**No access to loan facilities in the community (Youth, Business people, Women and Chiefs)**

Despite the limitations mentioned, it appears that electricity provision is still highly regarded in the community and, if addressed could impact several areas of need: electricity, school, and clinic.

Reasons motivating the scoring are shown in full in Table 3. Origins of reasons are indicated in the parentheses. For convenience the reasons within the top three prioritized areas are highlighted for further consideration by the Gola VDC.

The results of the P-Index should be used with caution. Any further use should be verified by the implementing organization prior to use.

2.2. Thendo

The Thendo P-Index Results are presented in Table 4 and Figure 3. An average P-Index scores for the 4 villages are calculated for all needs which appear in at least 3 locations.

Thendo had a maximum score (10) on electricity which was motivated by a lack of mobile phone towers in the community where electricity was seen as a requirement to have these towers. Arguably, this could be interpreted as a separate need entirely, but in this case was left as an electricity need because this was how the respondents understood it.   Additionally, lack of lighting at schools and health centres motivated the score.

The average P-Index score across all needs in Thendo was 8.42, the highest of the four villages. With this evidence alone it is difficult to conclude whether this means that the needs were greater in Thendo than other communities. Outside electricity, the highest P-Index score was for Food at 9.00. This was motivated by the fact that many of the crops were lost due to the flooding in January 2015 and the community had not harvested sufficient food.

Table 4: Thendo Scores

Thendo		
Need	P-Index	Avg P-Index (All Villages)
*Electricity	10.00	9.49
Food	9.00	7.71
Clinic	8.80	8.12
Road	8.67	7.52
Water	7.83	6.37
Security	7.83	7.65
School	6.83	6.88

Needs revolving around the clinic generated a high score of 8.80. The community noted that it was insufficiently staffed, small and unable to provide services for anything but under-five care, and had no maternal services. As a result women have to walk long distances to a hospital which puts them and the babies at risk if they have to give birth along the way.

Despite this high score, other needs were similarly highly ranked. The lowest ranked score, School, was motivated by the lack of a nearby secondary school. Girls have been forced to drop out because of this distance

Figure 3: Thendo P-Index

coupled with the relatively high cost of boarding which might allow them to stay on-site.
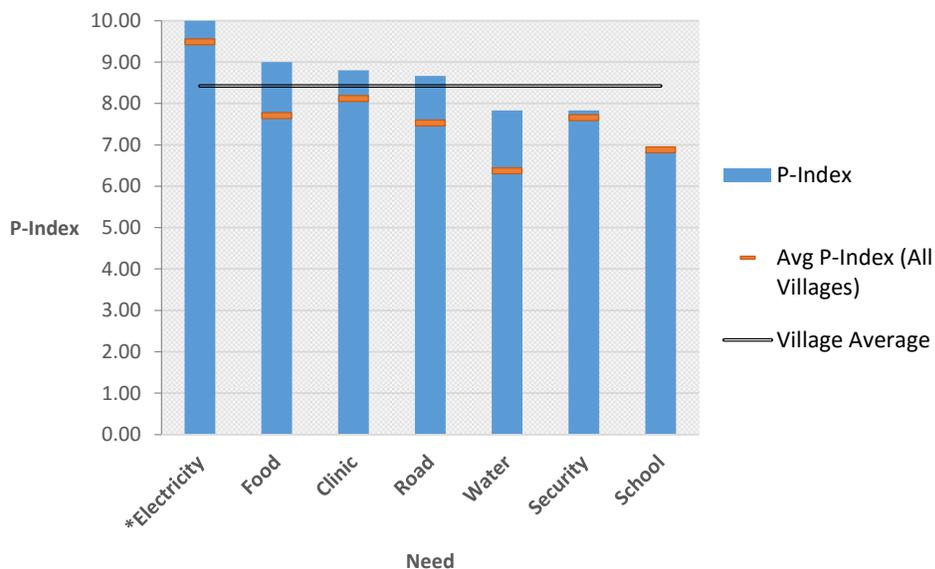
In terms of electricity needs and potential areas of focus for SOGERV, the needs assessment revealed a need to provide lighting at the primary school for studying and at teacher homes so they can better prepare lesson plans. Lack of staff at the clinic could potentially be addressed by providing basic electrical services at staff houses which may motivate staff to stay at Thendo. Off-grid power supply to mobile towers could serve as an anchor load, and will be explored.

Despite the limitations mentioned, it appears that electricity provision is still highly regarded in the community and, if addressed could impact several areas of need: electricity, school, and clinic.

Reasons motivating the scoring are shown in full in Table 5. Origin of reasons are indicated in the parentheses. For convenience the reasons within the top three prioritized areas are highlighted for further consideration by the Thendo VDC.

Table 5: Thendo – Full Needs and Motivating Reasons

The results of the P-Index should be used with caution. Any further use should be verified by the implementing organization prior to use.

ITEM	REASONS
Clinic	**Health Post structure is available but no services are provided right now because there is not even a single staff member (Chiefs and Women)**
	Clinic is too small which is meant to offer under five services only (Women and Men)
	Distance to hospital is very far. Women give birth on their way to hospitals and other patients die before they reach to the hospital (Men and Chiefs)
School	Distance to secondary school is far - girls dropout of school and end up marrying at early stages because they cannot afford self-boarding (Youth, Chiefs, Men)
	No Nursery School in the community - this makes standard 1 learners very difficult to handle (Chiefs)
Water	Long distances to water points/boreholes because boreholes are far apart. The elderly and disabled find it difficult to fetch water in such circumstances.(Elderly, disabled and Women)
	People drink unsafe water as an alternative to walking long distances to boreholes (Chiefs)
Food	**Crops were washed away with floods due to heavy rains. People have not harvested enough (Chiefs, Men, Disabled, Elderly and Women)**
Road	**No tarred roads. A poor road network which makes it very difficult for people to go to hospital and banks in Chikwawa**
Security	No police officers because of lack of houses (Chiefs, Men)
*Electricity	Poor network coverage because there is no electricity which prevent service providers from installing network towers - (Chiefs, Youth and Men)
	No light sources at school which makes it difficult for learners to study at night. Teachers fail to prepare lesson plans for classes because their houses are not connected to electricity.

2.3. Kandeu

The Kandeu P-Index Results are presented in Table 6 and Figure 4. An average P-Index scores for the 4 villages are calculated for all needs which appear in at least 3 locations.

Kandeu had a high score (9.75) on electricity which was motivated lack of electricity at teacher homes, which was perceived to have impact educational performance as teachers cannot prepare lesson plans. This demonstrates that many needs are linked to each other. Businesses were hampered by lack of electricity, preventing such activities as barber shops, welding, video shows, and phone charging.

The average P-Index score across all needs in Kandeu was 7.75. Outside electricity, the highest P-Index score was for Clinic at 9.25. This was motivated by distance to the hospital. Women have been forced to give birth before they arrive and are subject to a 5000 MWK fine if they deliver at home or elsewhere. Furthermore, it was reported that the clinic had insufficient drug supplies.

Needs revolving around security generated a high score of 9.13. Theft has become problem of late and was linked by the community to the lack of a police unit in the area.

Despite this high score, other needs were similarly highly ranked. The lowest ranked score, Water, reflected lack of boreholes in the community. As a result, people drink unsafe water.

In terms of electricity needs and potential areas of focus for SOGERV, the needs assessment revealed a need to provide lighting at the primary school for studying and at teacher homes so they can better prepare lesson plans. If lack of drugs is due to lack of refrigeration at the clinic, this could addressed through a solar PV system, although more investigation is needed as to the cause. Power provision for businesses for the activities mentioned can be targeted by SOGERV except in the case of welding, which is problematic for small scale PV systems.

Table 6: Kandeu Scores

Kandeu		
Need	P-Index	Avg P-Index (All Villages)
*Electricity	9.75	9.49
Clinic	9.25	8.12
Security	9.13	7.65
Loan Schemes	7.75	7.77
Food	7.63	7.71
Roads	7.00	7.52
School	6.25	6.88
Water	5.25	6.37

Figure 4: Kandeu P-Index
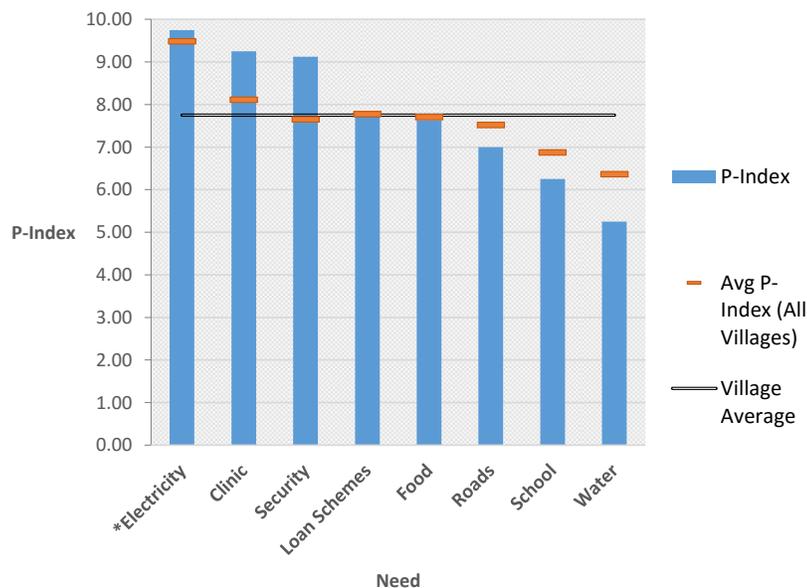
Despite the limitations mentioned, it appears that electricity provision is still highly regarded in the community and, if addressed could impact several areas of need: business activities, schools, and clinic.

Reasons motivating the scoring are shown in full in Table 7. Origin of reasons are indicated in the parentheses. For convenience the reasons within the top three prioritized areas are highlighted for further consideration by the Kandeu VDC.

The results of the P-Index should be used with caution. Any further use should be verified by the implementing organization prior to use.

Table 7: Kandeu – Full Needs and Motivating Reasons

ITEM	REASONS
Clinic	**Distance to the hospital-women give birth while on their way to hospital and if this happens they are asked to pay a fine of 5,000 Kwacha (Women, Men, Youth and Chiefs)**
	Lack of drugs at the Health Center (Youth, Elderly)
Food	No enough food in the area because crops were washed away by floods (Chiefs, Women, Men and Youth)
	Lack of farm inputs like fertilizer and seeds due to poverty (Youth, Elderly)
*Electricity	Lack of electricity at school and teacher houses- this makes it difficult for learners to study at night and teachers fail to prepare for lessons (Teachers, Chiefs)
	Lack of electricity makes some business enterprises not take place in the area such as Barber shops, welding, video shows, phone charging etc. (Youth, business)
School	Learners walk long distances to school which lead into high level of drop outs (Youth and Women)
	Lack of a head teacher's office at the school which makes it difficult for the Head teacher to carry out his duties. (Teachers, Chiefs)
	Lack of learning materials/resources for example desks, chairs, materials for the disabled kids (Disabled and Teachers)
Water	Not enough boreholes in the community, some people still drink unsafe water (Chiefs, Women, Elderly)
Road	Poor road network which makes it difficult for them to go to Chikwawa Boma where they get many services like health, banks, etc. (Women, Business people)
Security	**Increase in theft cases because there is no police unit in the area (Chiefs, Youth)**
Loan Schemes	**No access to loan facilities in the community (Women, Men, Business people)**

2.4. Mandrade

The Mandrade P-Index Results are presented in Table 8 and Figure 5. An average P-Index scores for the 4 villages are calculated for all needs which appear in at least 3 locations.

Mandrade had a high score (9.75) on electricity which was motivated lack of electricity schools for students to study at night. This demonstrates that many needs are closely linked to each other and careful analysis is needed to determine the underlying causes. Business people mentioned the lack of reliable refrigeration at the health facility as a cause for the high prioritization. The refrigerator uses gas and is not often resupplied. It is not entirely clear why business people are particularly concerned with the clinic refrigeration situation.

Table 8: Mandrade Scores

Mandrade		
Need	P-Index	Avg P-Index (All Villages)
*Electricity	8.63	9.49
Clinic	8.13	8.12
Road	8.00	7.52
School	8.00	6.88
Loans	8.00	7.77
Food	7.63	7.71
Water	7.25	6.37
Entertainment	7.13	

The average P-Index score across all needs in Mandrade was 7.84. Mandrade was the only community that specifically identified entertainment as a need, though it was the lowest score. Outside electricity, the highest P-Index score was for Clinic at 8.13. The closest hospital with maternal services is 10 km away which has led to maternal deaths as the women are forced to give birth before they arrive. The youth indicated that the clinic in Mandrade offers no reproductive health services.
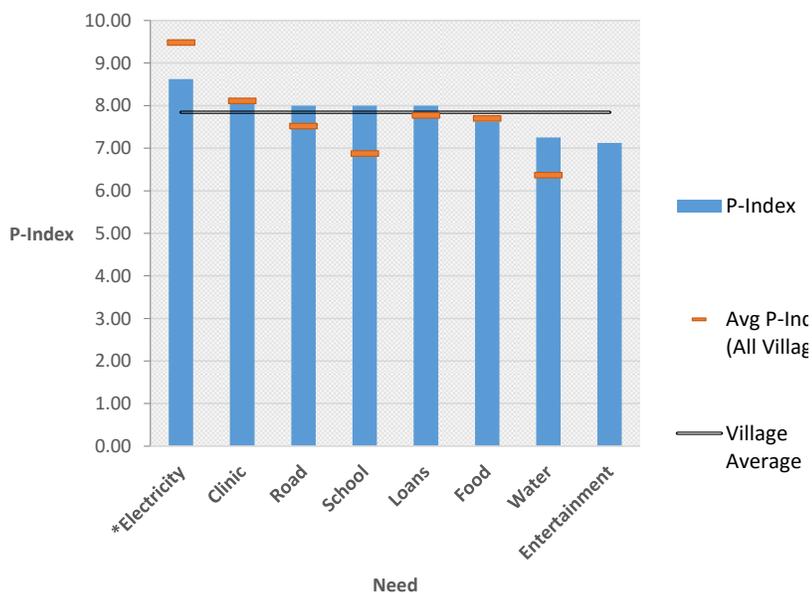
Several needs were all scored at 8.00: Road, School, and Loans. Poor road networks inhibited business people from reaching markets and lack of loans facility was perceived to limit ability of youths to start up businesses. Like other communities, the primary school lacks sufficient blocks so pupils study instead under trees. Schools lack sufficient teachers and there is no lighting at the school for students to study in the evenings. This was linked to low exam pass rates.

Figure 5: Mandrade P-Index

In terms of electricity needs and potential areas of focus for SOGERV, the needs assessment revealed a need to provide lighting at the primary school for studying. Electric supply at teacher homes could potentially help attract and retain teachers in Mandrade. Power provision for businesses can be

targeted by SOGERV including refrigeration. Additionally, entertainment services such as TV shows and video can utilise solar PV power and can potentially be commercially driven. SOGERV will also be establishing village savings and loan groups at each location which could address, to some extent the loan facility requirements by introducing a financing source.

Despite the limitations mentioned, it appears that electricity provision is still highly regarded in the community and, if addressed could impact several areas of need: business activities and schools in particular. Provision of electricity to support reliable refrigeration at the clinic could be facilitated.

Table 9: Mandrade – Full Needs and Motivating Reasons

ITEM	REASONS
CLINIC	**People die on their way to Hospital (Nearest Hospital about 10kms)**
	Maternal deaths (Men, Women ,Chiefs)
	Lack of and no access to Reproductive Health services (Youths)
FOOD	Malnutrition –Due to food insecurity (Chiefs)
	Floods –Members of the community didn't cultivate well due to heavy rains(Chiefs, Vulnerable)
	Lack of farm inputs (vulnerable)
*ELECTRICITY	There is only one Refrigerator at the Health center which uses gas, and gas doesn't come regularly. There is a lack of supply of gas. (Business People)
	Student at school cannot study at night because there is no lighting source (Teachers)
WATER	Lack of Boreholes. People in the Community still drink water from the River. This is unsafe water which promotes water-borne diseases (Men, Vulnerable)
	The aged people in the community walk long distances to fetch water (Men)
ROAD	**People in the community take time to go to business places due to poor Road Network(Business People)**
	There is lots of dust and roads are full of holes (Chiefs)
SCHOOL	**Shortages of classrooms that requires Pupils learn under the trees (Teachers, Men)**
	Low Exam pass rate. Due to light sources pupils cannot study at night (Teachers)
	Shortages of teachers(Chiefs, Teachers)
	There is no secondary school the community. The Nearest is about 6km away (Chiefs, Women)
LOANS	**Members in the Community have no access to funds to start small businesses (Youths)**
ENTERTAINMENT	Lack of recreation resources e.g. Television, Video

Reasons motivating the scoring are shown in full in Table 9. Origin of reasons are indicated in the parentheses. For convenience the reasons within the top three prioritized areas are highlighted for further consideration by the Mandrade VDC.

The results of the P-Index should be used with caution. Any further use should be verified by the implementing organization prior to use.

3. Conclusions

3.1.   Potential SOGERV Applications

Several needs identified by the communities lend themselves to an appropriate energy application. Many of the issues are related to energy needs which are cross cutting and focused on institutional areas, rather than individual. These will be explored by SOGERV to determine whether they can be sustainably provided for. The following list of applications are feasible and will be included in the market assessment due to be completed by the SOGERV team.

3.1.1   Energy Applications

- Lighting at schools for night study
- Basic electricity service (lighting, mobile phone charging) at teacher homes for lesson plan preparation and to incentivize teachers to come and stay in the village
- Basic electricity service (lighting, mobile phone charging) at health post staff homes to incentivize staff to come and stay in the village
- Basic electricity service for business activities including
    - Lighting
    - Mobile phone charging
    - Entertainment (TV/Video)
    - Refrigeration
    - Barber shops
- Basic electricity services for health facilities
    - Lighting
    - Refrigeration

3.1.2   Other Applications

- Village Savings and Loans

SOGERV will establish an active village savings and loan (VSL) scheme in each community. The purpose is to encourage community members save money to create source of finance. The VSL members will be trained on the benefits and options for renewable energy products, but will be free to use the funds in any way they see fit. It is hoped that they will support the local entrepreneur by buying from him. This will see many households using safe and clean lighting sources like solar lanterns.

3.2.   Handling unaddressed needs

As SOGERV cannot address all the identified needs, it is important the results of the needs assessment are passed on to the appropriate entity to take them forward. SOGERV has identified the Village Development Committee as this entity. However, not all VDC are prepared to take initiative – some are quite new and are not well organized. During a meeting with the District Council, it was agreed that the District would seek to provide training for the Gola, Mandrade, Thendo, and Kandeu VDC to improve their capabilities.

The needs assessment will be provided to the VDC and District Council for consideration in district development plans due to be completed in January 2016.