

Chart of the Week #2025-10

Energy Poverty in Africa

Batt Odgerel

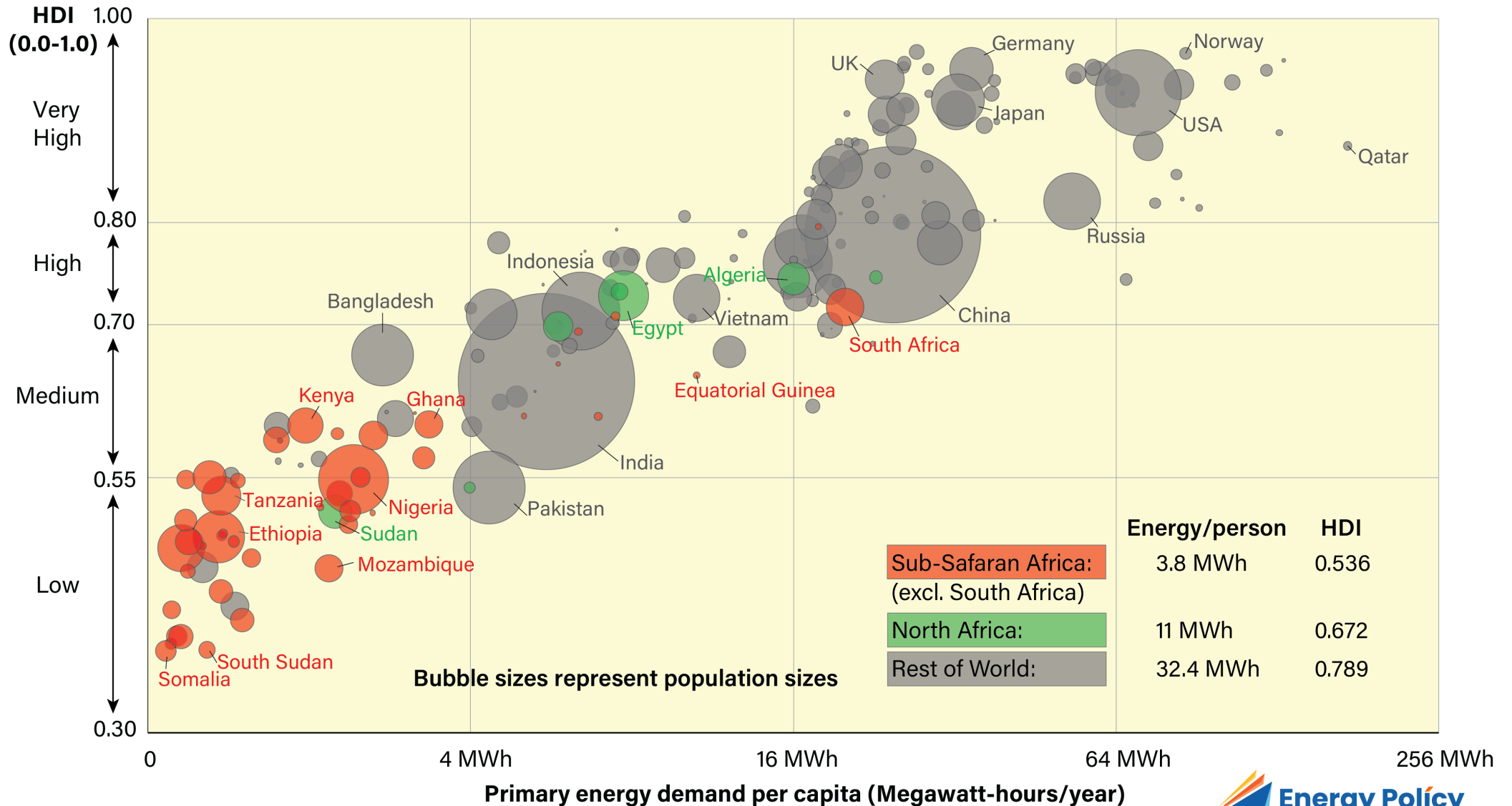
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Washington, DC



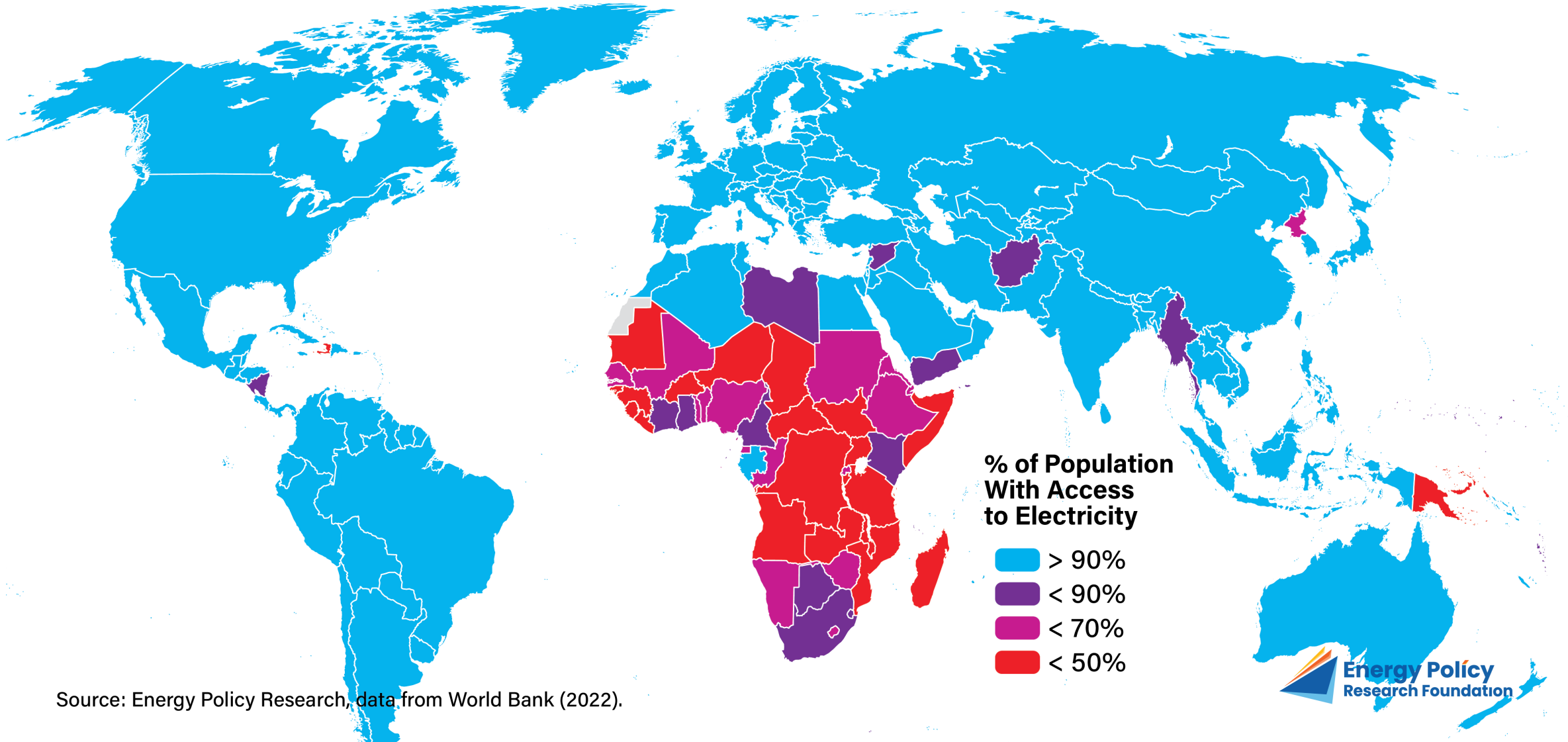
Energy is Crucial for Africa's Development Goals

Human Development Index (HDI) 2022 and Primary Energy Demand per Capita 2021



Source: Energy Policy Research, data from UN, World Bank, US EIA, UK Energy Institute & others.

600 Million People Live **Without Electricity Access** in Africa



Source: Energy Policy Research, data from World Bank (2022).

Energy Poverty in Africa



- There is a strong correlation between the Human Development Index (HDI)—a composite measure of life expectancy, education, and income—and per capita primary energy supply. With an average HDI of 0.536 (2022), most of Africa falls into the “low” HDI category.
- Excluding South Africa, the average person in Sub-Saharan Africa consumes about 3.8 MWh of primary energy annually (including electricity, fossil fuels, and biomass)—just one-ninth of the global average, which includes all other developing economies. This aligns with EPRINC Distinguished Fellow Francois Baird’s analysis of Africa’s chronic electricity shortages.
- As shown in the second graph, electricity access remains a uniquely African challenge. Of the 22 countries where more than half of the population lacks access to electricity, 20 are in Africa.
- Without addressing energy poverty, Africa cannot achieve its development objectives.

This slide deck is available at: <https://eprinc.org/chart-of-the-week/>

For more information on these charts, please contact Batt Odgerel (batto@eprinc.org)