

The Best Practices Toolkit: REGEND's Integrated Business Model

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Regional Initiative for Promoting Small-Scale Renewable Energy Applications in Rural Areas of the Arab Region (REGEND)- Lebanon Intervention from a Nexus Approach



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Ms. Jessica Obeid
Energy Expert



Sweden
Sverige



The role of renewable energy as an enabler and a catalyst for rural development

Small-scale RE systems are transformative for rural development. Yet, they've been used in limited applications



In 2021, 90.8 percent of the population in the Arab region had access to electricity as compared to 88.4 percent in 2010.



However, the biggest share of the population without access to electricity is mainly found in rural areas



Reliance on polluting and unsustainable sources of energy causes not only environmental, but also health hazards to rural communities, particularly rural women



A major opportunity of small-scale renewable energy systems in times of worsening economic outlook is enhancing the rural economy by improving conditions of productive activities



Embracing RETs can lead to increased business opportunities, both domestically and internationally



Rural women stand to benefit greatly from investments in RETs and entrepreneurial skills development



The importance of capital financing cannot be overstated in the various stages of the business model



REGEND was developed as a full grant-basis project for energy systems and other provisions as per the beneficiaries needs

Beneficiaries requested equipment and components that were supplied by REGEND due to these provisions made at the inception phase

Challenges



- **Political/security risks** associated with changes in Government or the political instability or crises affecting decision-making processes in one or more ESCWA member States, which could impede project activities.
- **Operating environment risks** associated with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and risks of loss, damage and/or malfunctioning of installed equipment.
- **Strategic risks** that may affect the commitment and engagement of partners and countries in project activities.
- **Administrative risks** associated with foreign- currency exchange rate fluctuations, which may reduce the total funds available for implementation.



REGEND Approach and Business Model

Focus: integrating community development with the provision of modern renewable energy



Provides a regional platform to build synergies among national, regional and international stakeholders.



Identifies best practices and disseminates and showcases knowledge and information to support initiatives that stimulate private sector investment, entrepreneurial development, poverty reduction, and women and youth empowerment, with emphasis on job creation and on developing robust value chains.



Applies a participatory and bottom-up style as an effective method for rural development initiatives by facilitating private and public sector investments, and collaboration between community-based organizations and community members for long-term planning process



Emphasizes gender empowerment by targeting women through capacity-building and knowledge sharing, and as beneficiaries of sustainable energy initiatives that create green jobs.



Best Practices

Governance and Monitoring Model	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identification of the pillars and criteria for beneficiaries
Partnerships and Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In the preparatory stage: identification of regional and national partner organizations, and adoption of a stakeholder participatory approach for a strong engagement and ownership
Needs' Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Development of a fit-for-purpose business model based on qualitative and quantitative data collection (field visits, focus groups, etc) and holistic needs and gender assessments
Gender Mainstreaming	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Development of a plan at inception phase with principal objectives: poverty elimination, sustainable and economic development, entrepreneurial, social inclusion, human rights
Legal, Regulatory and Policy Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Development of a cross-sectoral approach to policy- after identification of shortcomings, and through engagement with the various national and local stakeholders
Financing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assessment of end-user financial capacities and willingness to pay, development of innovative financing mechanisms; micro-finance, blended finance, incentives
Capacity Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Promotion of demand-driven capacity building based on local community needs, with a primary goals of women and youth empowerment and sustainable economic growth
Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Through addressing the capacity-building needs, involvement of youth, formation of institutional relationships that empower vulnerable communities, identification and dissemination of best practices, adoption of risk management strategies and creation of direct linkages. + Promotion of sustainable uses of savings from energy bills for future revenue growth



Governance, Monitoring, Sustainability

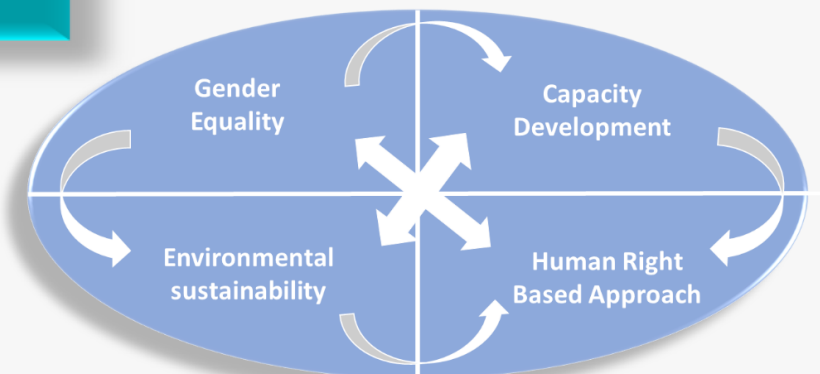
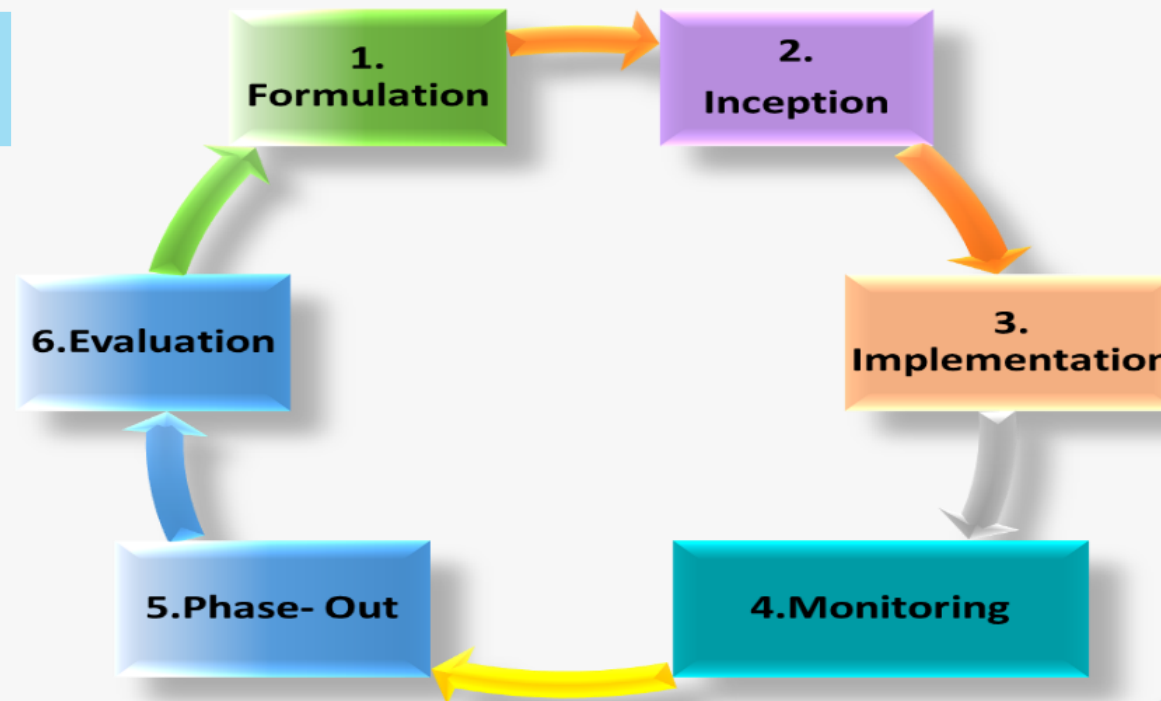
Governance and Monitoring

Beneficiaries Selection

Projects Decision

Implementation

Monitoring





Partnerships

- RELIEF Center (RC)
- Lebanese Center for Energy Conservation (LCEC)
- Jordan River Foundation – Jordan
- Zikra for Popular Learning – Jordan
- Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature - Jordan
- René Moawad Foundation (RMF) - Lebanon
- Lebanese Microfinance Association (LMFA) – Lebanon
- Arcenciel – Lebanon
- Diane Foundation – Lebanon
- Horizons for Green Development – Jordan

NGOs

- League of Arab States (LAS)
- "United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) – Lebanon, Tunisia"
- "Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD) – Jordan"
- "Arab Federation for Food Industries (ARABFFI) – Jordan"
- "United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) – Jordan, Lebanon"
- Climamed – Lebanon
- "Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organization (AIDMO) – Morocco"
- "International Network on Gender & Sustainable Energy (ENERGIA)"

International Organizations

- Jordan Environment Fund (JEF)
- Micro Fund for Women – Jordan
- "Jordan Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Fund (JREEEF) – Jordan"

Finance

- Institute for Global Prosperity (IGP)
- University College London (UCL)
- Royal Scientific Society (RSS) – Jordan
- Lebanese University (LU) – Lebanon
- "American University of Beirut (AUB) – Lebanon"

Academia

Think Tanks

- Chatham House (CH)
- West Asia-North Africa Institute (WANA) – Jordan
- Arab Youth Climate Movement (AYCM)

Public Sector

- "Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources (MEMR) - Jordan"
- Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) – Jordan
- National Energy Agency (ANME) – Tunisia
- "The General Commission for Regional Development (CGDR) – Tunisia"
- Municipality of Al-Achaari – Jordan
- Municipality of Batir - Jordan
- Municipality of Chorbane – Tunisia
- Municipality of Akkar Al-Atika – Lebanon
- Municipality of Chaqdouf - Lebanon
- "United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)"
- Ministry of Energy, Mines, Water and Environment – Morocco
- Ministry of General Affairs and Governance - Morocco
- Municipality of Chefchaouen – Morocco
- "Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)"
- Moroccan Agency for Energy Efficiency (AMEE) – Morocco
- Agricultural Investment Promotion Agency (APIA) – Tunisia
- Rural Women's Support Office - Tunisia
- "Ministry of Social Development (MSD) – Jordan"
- Social and Economic Council (SEC) – Jordan
- "Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MOPIC)- Jordan"
- "National Agricultural Research Center (NARC) – Jordan"
- Department of Statistics (DOS) - Jordan
- Ministry of Industry (MOI) – Lebanon
- Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA) – Lebanon
- "Lebanese Agriculture Research Institute (LARI) – Lebanon"
- "Commission for Regional Agricultural Development (CRDA) – Tunisia"
- "Agricultural Awareness Territorial Unit – Tunisia"

Key Partners



Economic, Social, Environmental, and Policy Impact

Impact on energy access and affordability

- Provision of reliable electricity
- Reduced cost of electricity
- Decreased dependence on expensive and polluting sources of electricity
- Increased renewable energy penetration and contribution to countries' national targets

Impact on income-generating activities

- Savings on operating costs
- Sales at more competitive rates
- Increased market share through new market access (due to lower rates)
- New production lines and revenue streams

Impact on gender and livelihoods

- Higher revenues/ income for women
- Developed entrepreneurial skills
- Increased participation in workforce and local decision-making

Impact on environment

- Reduction of volumes of CO2 emissions
- Greener productions
- More efficient water use and irrigation, and land cultivation.

Impact on policy

- Developing toolkits and policy support guidelines
- Jordan: inclusion of projects by charities or cooperatives as eligible for funding of solar applications at Fils Al Reef
- Tunisia: new MOUs and CDGR, mandated with rural development launched a tender for RE for water pumps, post-REGEND results.



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Thank you