



Shared Prosperity Dignified Life



## **Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)**

### **Title: Webinar on Best Practices for Integrated Business Models**

**Zoom Link:** <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJApdOurqT0vGNUUfCdQhfTpKamaQjNFjbRa>  
**23 January 2024, 11:00**

Under the "[Regional Initiative for Promoting Small-Scale Renewable Energy Applications in Rural Areas of the Arab Region \(REGEND\)](#)", the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), is organizing a webinar as a consultation meeting on REGEND's Best Practices Toolkit, which presents the implementation of an integrated business model using small-scale renewable energy technologies for income generating activities, entrepreneurial development and gender empowerment.

**Organizers:** ESCWA & Sida

#### **Background:**

Since 2018, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency ([Sida](#)) have been implementing the "Regional Initiative for Promoting Small-Scale Renewable Energy Applications in Rural Areas of the Arab Region (REGEND)". Following a Multi-stakeholder engagement and a bottom-up and integrated approach, REGEND was implemented in Jordan, Lebanon and Tunisia and is being expanded in Algeria and Mauritania.

REGEND aimed to improve the livelihood, economic benefits, social inclusion and gender equality of Arab rural communities particularly marginalized groups, satisfy energy needs and showcase and document the effectiveness of the bottom-up approach to achieve the desired results by addressing energy poverty, water scarcity and vulnerability to climate change and other natural resources challenges. This was pursued by promoting pro-poor investments using appropriate small-scale renewable energy (RE) technologies for productive activities and entrepreneurial development.

Building on the outcomes of REGEND, a toolkit is being developed for documenting the experiences from the field and impacts that the REGEND business model was able to achieve, and the obstacles addressed and those that need further consideration for the purpose of distilling them and further drive the need for wide dissemination and reinforcement of ESCWA's REGEND integrated business model proposition.

In this context, ESCWA is organizing an online webinar to present, discuss, and collect feedback on the "REGEND Best Practices Toolkit" developed based on the outcomes and assessments of the implemented activities under REGEND. The toolkit highlights REGEND design and implementation approaches, the completed work and achievements, the challenges faced, and solutions undertaken during its implementation as well for ensuring its sustainability. The toolkit provides guidelines for future projects and for expanding REGEND's Business model thought process for success.

## AGENDA

Tuesday, 23 January 2024	
11:00 – 11:05	<b>Introduction and Housekeeping</b>
<b>Session 1: REGEND Overview</b>	
11:05 – 11:15	<p><b>Speaker:</b> Ms. Radia Sedaoui, Chief Energy Section, Climate Change and Natural Resources Sustainability Cluster, ESCWA / REGEND Team Member</p> <p><b>Topic:</b> Present REGEND Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduce the Integrated Business Model Approach</li> <li>- Focus points:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Rural development</li> <li>o Water, energy food nexus</li> <li>o Gender Mainstreaming</li> <li>o Economic Empowerment</li> <li>o Capacity Building</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Session 2: Best Practices Toolkit</b>	
11:15 – 11:35	<p><b>Speaker: Ms.</b> Jessica Obeid, ESCWA consultant</p> <p><b>Topic:</b> Best Practices from REGEND Business model implementation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Approach</li> <li>- Challenges</li> <li>- Best practices</li> <li>- Lessons Learned</li> </ul>
11:35 – 12:25	<p><b>Panel discussion: moderated discussion with interventions from REGEND consultants and team members, representatives from Local Facilitating Teams, Community Members,</b></p> <p><b>Topic:</b> the challenges faced during REGEND implementation and impact on energy access, gender mainstreaming, social, policy, and financial aspects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Challenges Faced during REGEND implementation throughout the process (technical, regulatory, and institutional, policy, Data, capacity building, social, financial, communication, partnerships)</li> <li>- Solutions undertaken</li> <li>- Good practices</li> <li>- Sustainability</li> </ul> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Fethi Hamad, Fethia Bougtif, Hesham Almomani, Jamila Al-Jazi, Jil Amine, Khaled Bedoui, Maher Dmoor, Mohamed Zied Gannar, Mohammad Khatib, Moufida Naouali, Naffaa Baccari, Omar Kaaki, Paul Saoud, Radhia Hajj Mohammad, Samer Zawaydeh, Siham Al Maaytah</p> <p><b>Question and Answers</b></p>
12:25 – 12:30	<b>Group Photo and Closing</b>