

Regional Initiative for Promoting Small-Scale Renewable Energy Applications in Rural Areas of the Arab Region (REGEND)

Lebanon – 30th July 2019

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Overview of the Project Scope, Objectives and expected outcomes



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ESCWA

Sustainable Development Policies Division – Energy Section

Arab region key challenges: facts on the ground

- Natural resources unequally distributed
- High vulnerability to climate change
- Water scarcity
- Land degradation
- Food insecurity
- High dependency on fossil fuel
- Increasing vulnerability to international energy price fluctuations
- Subsidized prices for energy, electricity and water
- Limited access to finance and technology
- Armed conflict, regional instability and mass migration
- Undeveloped rural areas, mostly in the least developed countries
- Rising urbanization and unequal access to modern energy and basic services (education, healthcare, drinking water, decent jobs ...) are exacerbating the urban-rural divide



Inclusive and integrated approach for natural resource management and to build resilience to climate change

KEY FACTS IN NUMBERS – Are we on track in the ARAB REGION?

Near-universal access to modern energy but very slow progress in energy efficiency and a marginal role of renewable energy

Electrification

- **92.5 per cent** in the Arab region is electrified.
- **30 million** still remain without electricity access. Mainly in three LDCs with only **50%** deficit in rural.

Clean cooking

- Access to CFTs is encouragingly high in the Arab region with **90.3%** in 2017.
- **37.5 million** people still lack access to CFTs, mainly in rural LDCs and conflict areas

Renewables

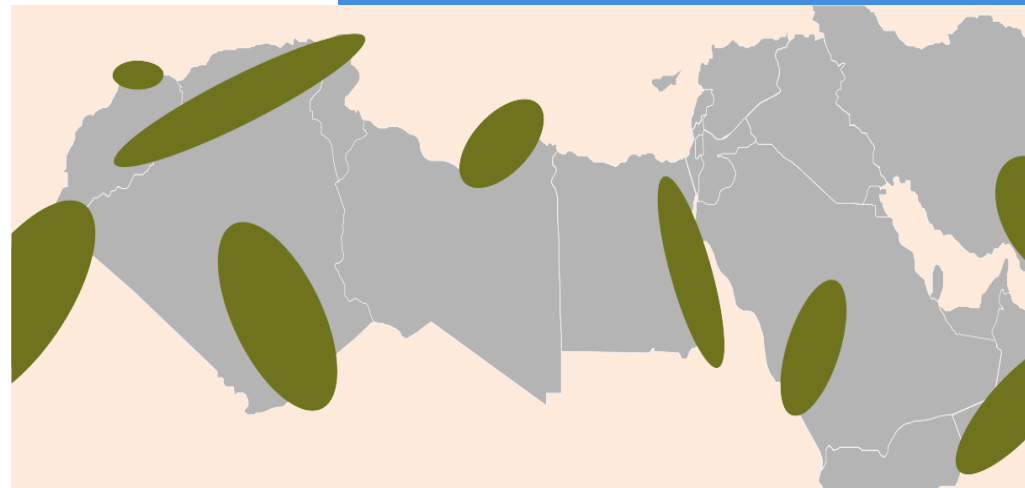
- RE share has been plateauing at around **10.2%** of the region total final energy consumption since 2010,
- The share of Solar, Wind and hydro power lies at only **19%** of the region's RE total.

Efficiency

- 2nd lowest energy intensity of the world's regions, largely an artefact of its fuel mix based on widespread efficient use of gas.
- **Transport** remains by far the most energy-intensive sector, followed by industry and agriculture.

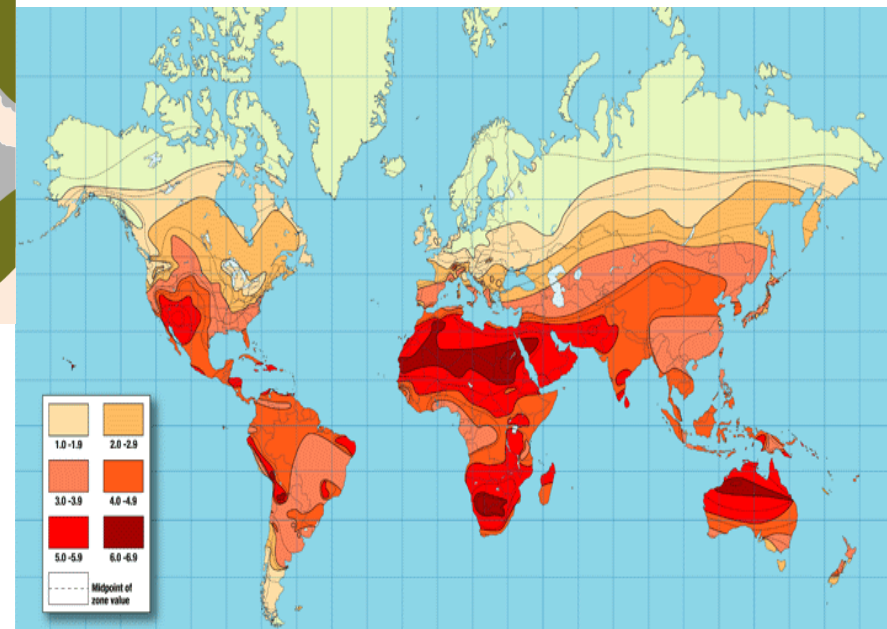
The Arab countries are well endowed with potential for developing renewable energy resources, if adequately used

The share of renewable energy in the energy mix in the Arab region is one of the lowest in the world



source: MAKE, MENA Wind Power Outlook, 2 April 2015, Joffery Dupuy, P. 8

- Wind speed suitable for the production of electricity in various locations of many countries
- High Solar Irradiance



- Vast desert lands, semi-flat, and mostly uninhabited.
- Pilot and commercial projects, industrial potential, Technical staff and available labor.
- Official interest in RE/ Plans and Policies to diversify the energy mix.
- Contribution to Energy Security.
- A tool to reduce emissions.

Project Justification: Major Challenges in the Arab Region

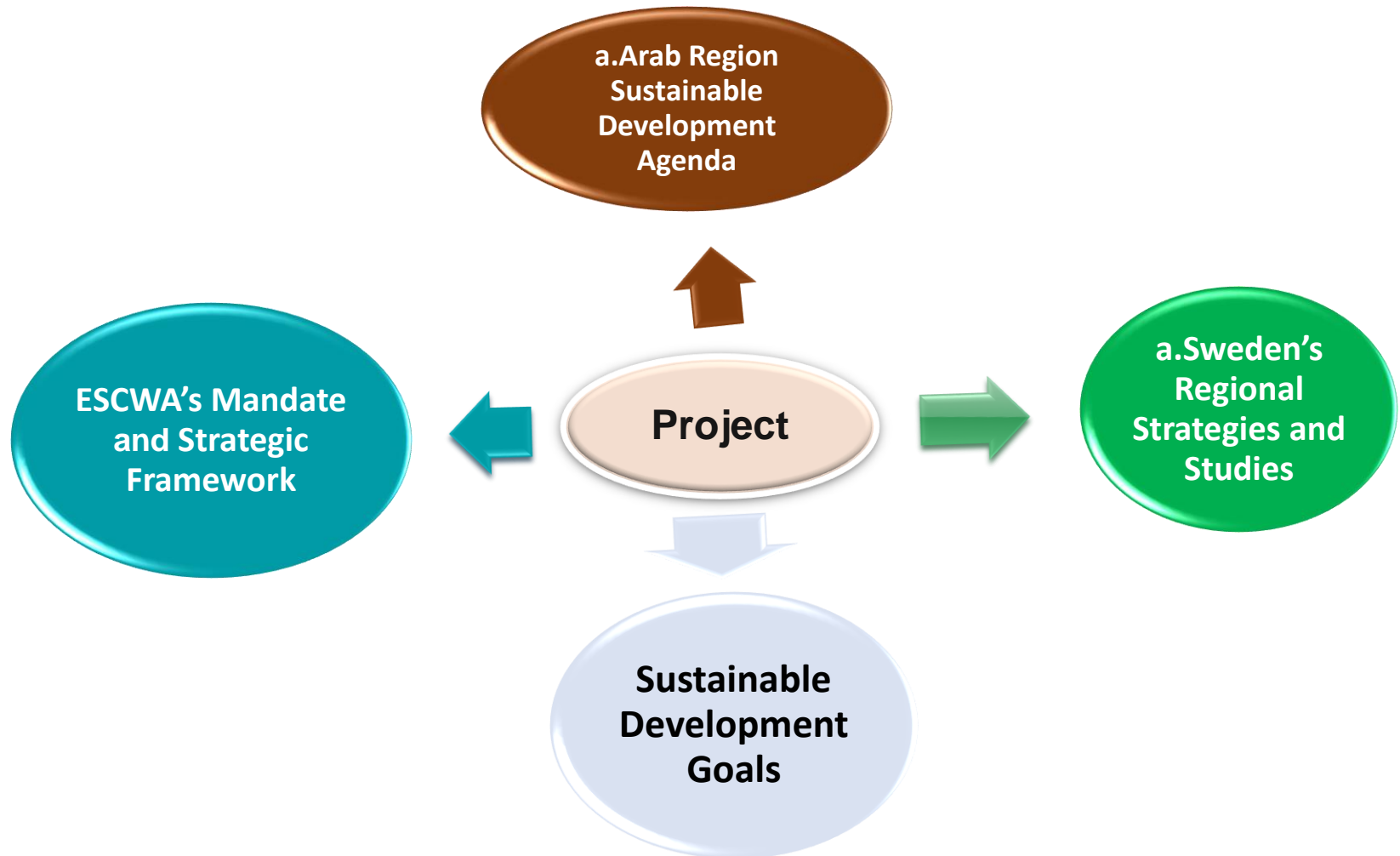
- Limited knowledge and awareness of Policy makers on policy tools to incentivize the dissemination and use of appropriate small scale RE technologies in rural communities;
- Focus of many governments in the Arab countries on the development of large scale RE power generation systems;
- Centralized systems are driven more by the demands of big industries and urban population;
- Less importance is given to develop, install, assemble and undertake maintenance work for small scale RE systems;
- Lack the enabling environment for the private sector to invest in small scale RE technologies, especially in rural areas;
- Lack of accessible financial support for small scale projects able to facilitate private consumers to install RE technologies;

RE applications if adequately used to meet the needs of rural communities, will open up more **entrepreneurial** opportunities in **productive** sectors, beyond agriculture, will ease the pressure of **migration** to urban areas, and contribute to **reducing the social strife, gender disparity, potential rise of conflict** and build resilience to climate change.

PROJECT SUMMARY

Title:	Regional Initiative for Promoting Small-Scale Renewable Energy Applications in rural areas of the Arab Region
Implementing Division:	ESCWA Sustainable Development Policies Division (SDPD) with inputs from other ESCWA/divisions and Units
Key Partners:	SIDA Partners in implementation include LAS, line ministries, National Instructions, local authorities, Local and regional NGOs, UN organisations, various regional organizations,..
Duration:	4 years: 2018 – 2021 including an Inception Phase
Target Countries:	ESCWA Member States and Sweden’s Regional Strategy for Development Cooperation in MENA 2016-2020 target countries. Focus will be on Jordan, Lebanon and Tunisia
Main Beneficiaries:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Primary beneficiaries: Rural population with emphasis on marginalized and vulnerable groups ▪ The second category of beneficiaries: Governmental relevant ministries and Agencies (<i>Energy, Economic Development, Industry, Agriculture, Planning, Social Affairs, ..</i>), local government bodies, civil societies, relevant NGOs and women associations, SME, Financial institutions, Academic Research institutions, Universities; ▪ Project results and recommendations will be shared in national and regional workshops with other Arab countries.

Link to ESCWA Mandate, AGENDA 2030 & SIDA Strategies



Project Objectives

Long Term Objective



Improve the livelihood, economic benefits, social inclusion and gender equality of Arab rural communities particularly marginalized groups by addressing energy poverty, water scarcity and vulnerability to climate change and other natural resources challenges



Using appropriate **small-scale renewable energy** technologies for **productive activities** to stimulate **entrepreneurial development**, **women empowerment** with emphasis on job creation and developing robust value chains in a **nexus approach** to encourage a **sustainable economy**.



Support the needs to move away from a model based on “handouts” to a model based on “knowhow” in order to ensure a promising way forward.

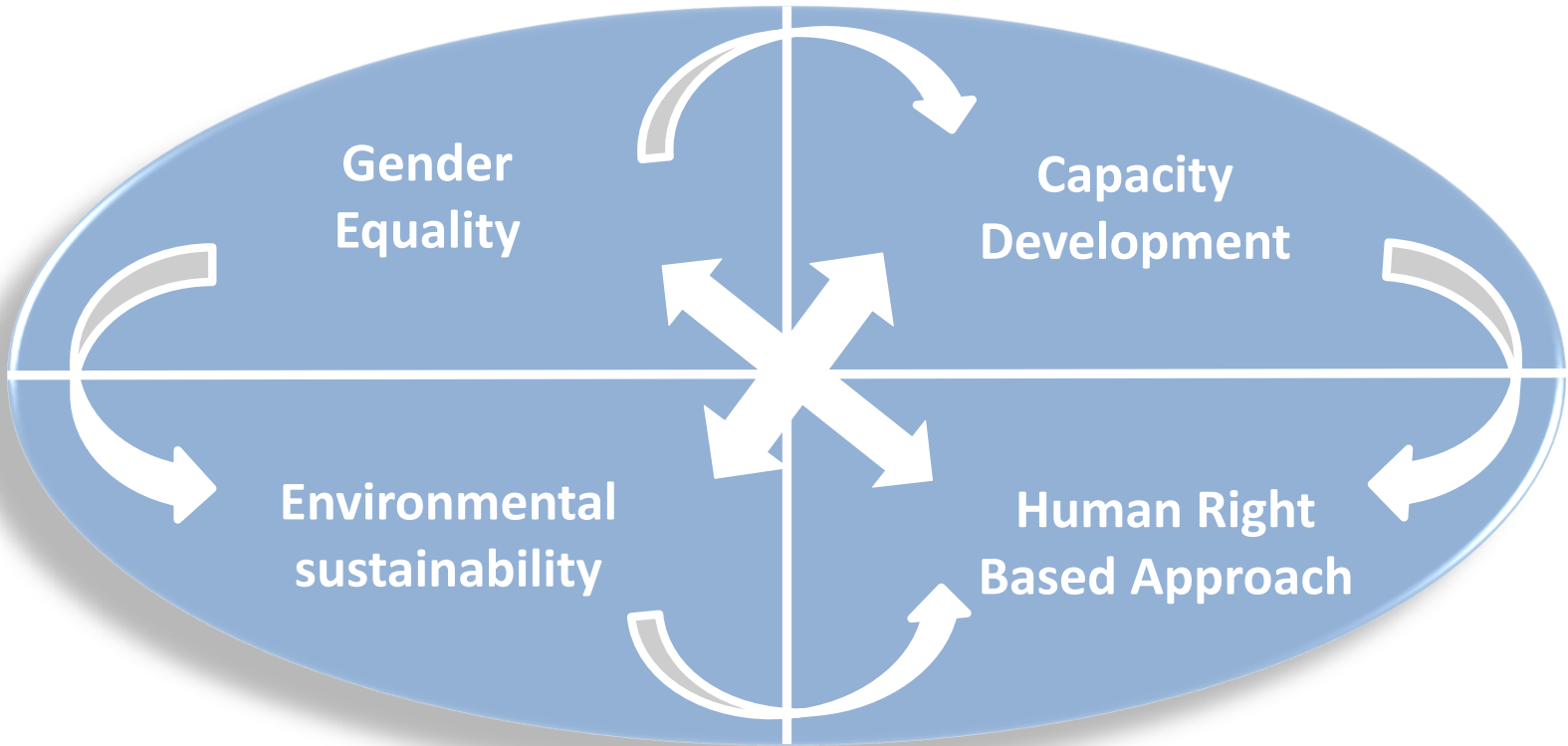
PROJECT Expected Accomplishments

Increased knowledge on the socio economic, political dynamics, environmental consideration of Arab rural communities and understanding of appropriate Small Scale RE technologies

Enhanced capacity of public, private, financial institutions to apply business models for implementation of appropriate Small Scale RE technologies in the productive sectors of rural areas.

Improved opportunities for rural economic development through creating the enabling environment for the private sector and women entrepreneurs to invest in Income Generating Activities by increasing use of Small Scale technologies

Sustainability of the Regional Initiative beyond Project Timeframe



PROJECT APPROACH and OWNERSHIP

- Strong linkage have been considered in the design of the Project components and outputs which would contribute to the sustainability of the Project outcomes and would enhance the ownership of all involved partners during the process of implementation.
- **Bottom up** and **multi-stakeholder participatory** approaches are being anticipated as an effective method for **rural development** initiatives;
- Strong involvement of the **Local Facilitating Teams (LFTs)**, the **Gender Network** and the **Arab-Rural Practitioners Network**;
- **Multi-Stakeholder Forum (MSF)**: to bridge the communication gap between the various **stakeholders**, build effective and sustainable **partnerships** for coordination, wide **dissemination** of Project results and lesson learned;
- **Communication plan** to ensure stakeholders' **engagement** and provide accurate access to **relevant information** and ownership.

PROJECT GOVERNANCE AND SUSTAINABILITY



Regional Knowledge Hub
(.....)

Secretariat
ESCWA

Steering Committee (SC)
ESCWA/LAS-Energy
Department/AIDMO/IPs

Project Team (PT)
ESCWA

LFT for Jordan
IP/key partners at
national levels



LFT for Lebanon
IP/key partners at
national levels



LFT for Tunisia
IP/key partners at
national levels



Abbreviations: Arab Industrial Development & Mining Organization (AIDMO); Implementing Partners (IP); Local Facilitating Team (LFT); League of Arab States(LAS); Steering Committee (SC)

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Gender mainstreaming Strategy through project Life Cycle



DRIVER

INCLUSIVE , SUSTAINABLE, ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC REVIVAL & DEVELOPMENT OF THE ARAB RURAL COMMUNITIES

PILLARDS

RE Technologies

- Effective/innovative RE-Small scale decentralized and modular, energy systems.
- Water-Energy-Food nexus
- Access to productive resources, appropriate and reliable services.

Human Capacity

- Model based on knowhow
- Trainings, Knowledge skills/Advisory Services.
- Brining change among rural community from resource poor living standards to reliable, affordable and modern sources of energy.

Women’s Empowerment & Social inclusion

- Economic power in rural women’s hands
- Female mentor
- Participative and bottom-up approach

Entrepreneurial development

- Economic transformation, Environmental and socio-economic development priorities
- Entrepreneurial jobs in productive sectors
- Spawn energy-based enterprises around RE based service providers

Policy and institutional Framework

- Pro-poor investments and private sector involvement
- Synergies among national/regional stakeholders.
- Innovative incentive mechanisms.

Cross Cutting

Human Rights, Gender equality, resilience to Climate Change

FOUNDATION

Untapped RE Resource, high Unemployment, chronic poverty, water scarcity, food insecurity, energy poverty and vulnerability to climate change of the rural communities of the Arab countries

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Engendering the Main Implementation period

- Ensuring that at least a critical mass of 30% of women is represented at the highest decision-making level of the Project
- Being gender responsive in all result-oriented activities by identifying the implications of the project activities and results for women as compared to men. This includes adjustments of the project, when deemed necessary, to prevent that the project perpetuates gender inequalities and to ensure that women's empowerment and gender equality will be enhanced throughout the implementation stage.
- Keeping records on gender the Project disaggregated data, and being transparent/accountable for the deliveries to man and women
- Enhancing ownership by men and women through participatory monitoring processes, especially regarding processes to promote gender equality
- Including gender-responsive budget analysis of the project in the progress reports in order to link the commitments to gender equality and women's human rights to the distribution, use and generation of the Project resources.
- Peer review of all materials developed for publication in the Project by the SWAP coordinator or a gender focal point from the ESCWA Center for Women.
- Ensure that the TOR of each consultancy assignment includes a gender clause and that the consultant have expertise in gender mainstreaming.

Engendering the Phasing-out period

- During this period all responsibilities are handed over to the local/national partners. It is important to pass the responsibilities to gender aware local partners.
- The more ownership of the project results by both women and men has been achieved, the easier it will be to put maintenance plans in place that are owned and controlled by both genders. Maintenance plans will be in place through the ToT, “Rural development and “Gender Network”.
- The project management will ensure that all relevant skills are effectively transferred. This also means that due consideration will be made to ensure that skills and expertise on mainstreaming gender equality in related areas of rural development are effectively transferred.
- Allocated budget to follow-up on the technical advisory services after the completion of the Project should be based on gender budget analysis to ensure that appropriate budget allocations are available to address gender issues.

Engendering the Project Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring as engine for project effectiveness

- Participative processes to monitor and review the gender specific results of the project, will be used to ensure maximum transparency and accountability on gender issues, and will support in enhancing ownership and become an instrument for women's empowerment.
- Developing a set of gender disaggregated performance indicators, with gender disaggregated data.

Engendering the Evaluation stage

- Will include gender equality issues to be addressed following certain criteria in terms of relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability and in compliance with the UN rules and evaluation Frameworks.
- The gender balance and/or adequate level of gender expertise will be required in the evaluation team. The evaluation report will be based on qualitative and quantitative data, disaggregated by sex, to measure results and long-term outcomes for both women and men.

Output 1.1	Baseline Study of socio economic and political dynamics and environmental consideration linked to productive activities by sector, access to energy services requirements and availability of sources of energy supply, and associated technologies needed to support resilience in rural community.	Gender mainstreaming would be ensured through this Output in the content of the Preliminary Assessment Report and role of women would be ensured through their membership in the LFTs and the plan of action to be developed for enhancing gender equity as cross cutting issue through the activities of the project.
Output 1.2	Country Gender Assessment on entry-points to energy access, entrepreneurial development, and building resilience to climate change of the targeted communities of the Arab rural areas.	This output is fully engendered as it intends to support enhancing gender mainstreaming through the project and at national level of the targeted countries but also to be extended through dissemination with other Arab countries.
Output 1.3	Toolkits, Fact Sheets/Booklets and other promotional material on appropriate Small Scale RE	The TOR of the consultancy to perform the technical review and development of the technical material will be shared with the Gender focal point at ESCWA to incorporate gender issues, e.g. gender balance, women empowerment. Preer review and consultation process on the draft material would enhance its expected outcome and would serve for gender sensitive interventions in the project.
Output 2.1	Conceptual Comprehensive Business models for implementation of small-scale RE technologies in support of resilience of the targeted population, developed, tested and disseminated.	The conceptual Business Model will show an understanding of the roles, responsibilities and capabilities of men and women to ensure that both benefit from the proposed opportunities of small scale RE technologies and use in rural productive sectors. The conceptual business models will, where appropriate, propose special measures to promote women's participation in decision making processes, capacity development, entrepreneurship, SMEs,...etc.
Output 2.2	Pilot projects implemented in selected local communities of the rural area of targeted Arab countries to test and fine-tune the Comprehensive Conceptual Business models.	The pilot projects will be identified and selected based on their substantial impact on gender equality and women empowerment where priority will be given explicitly for specific initiatives to engage women as entrepreneurs. The Business Models will be designed and comprise the gender component as a cross cutting issue and one of the key pillars.
Output 3.1:	Policy Toolkit as Regional Strategic guidelines to improve the enabling environment for the private sector and women entrepreneurs to invest in income generating activities by increasing use of small-scale RE technologies in productive activities in the Arab rural areas.	The Policy Toolkit will build-in incentives for women entrepreneurs as to come to real formulation and implementation of gender-affirmative actions that will make a difference in women's lives. Drawing on successful models such as Gramin Shakti model in Bangladesh, the SEWA model in India and other international and regional initiatives. The recommendations and suggestions for reforms included in the Toolkit should provide a gender sensitive action plan for policy makers and financial instructions to support the decision making and that adopted reforms would make impact on enhancing the gender equality and women empowered specifically in productive sectors of rural areas of the Arab region.
Output 4.1:	A Regional Entity established to adopt the developed policy frameworks and implementation tools	Given the long term dimension expected from establishing this "Regional Entity" , gender perspective is considered as key pillar of its area of intervention at national and regional level and it is ensured through the dissemination and sharing best practices and business models developed in framework of this project.
Output 4.2:	Training of the Trainers (ToT) and establishment of a Network of Arab-Rural Practitioners	The training technical material as well the audience selected to benefit from the Project outputs will be significantly engendered in line with the project expected accomplishment. Moreover, the female mentors and women entrepreneurs as well the Network of Arab-Rural Practitioners to be established would ensure the consideration of the gender balance.
Output 4.3:	Multi-Stakeholder Forum (MSF) on Small Scale RE technology use for entrepreneurial development and gender mainstreaming in productive sector within the rural area of the Arab Countries	As a as a match-making event, the gender balance will be ensured at the MSF from its audience to its technical material and dissemination process the gender dimension will be considered and would contribute to identify potential women entrepreneurs and Actors of Change that would support the sustainability of the Project outputs after its completion.
Output 4.4:	Dissemination of Information and Knowledge of the Project Outputs	Dissemination process and project outputs will take into consideration the gender sensitive issues and data given that will be using the Project Outputs and participants at different workshops and capacity building workshops and expert meetings where gender balance will be taken into consideration.
Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting:		It will be considered during the project implementation, monitoring and evaluation to set-up a gender responsive Monitoring & Evaluation system using gender-sensitive indicators and ensuring the recollection of gender disaggregated data. This includes adjustments of the project where and when necessary and depending on the progress reports and the Donor Strategy in order to prevent that the project perpetuates gender inequalities and to ensure that women's empowerment and gender equality will be enhanced throughout the implementation stage.