



Shared Prosperity **Dignified Life**



Sweden
Sverige

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

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

Overview of the Project Scope, Objectives and expected outcomes

28/11/2019

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

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.

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

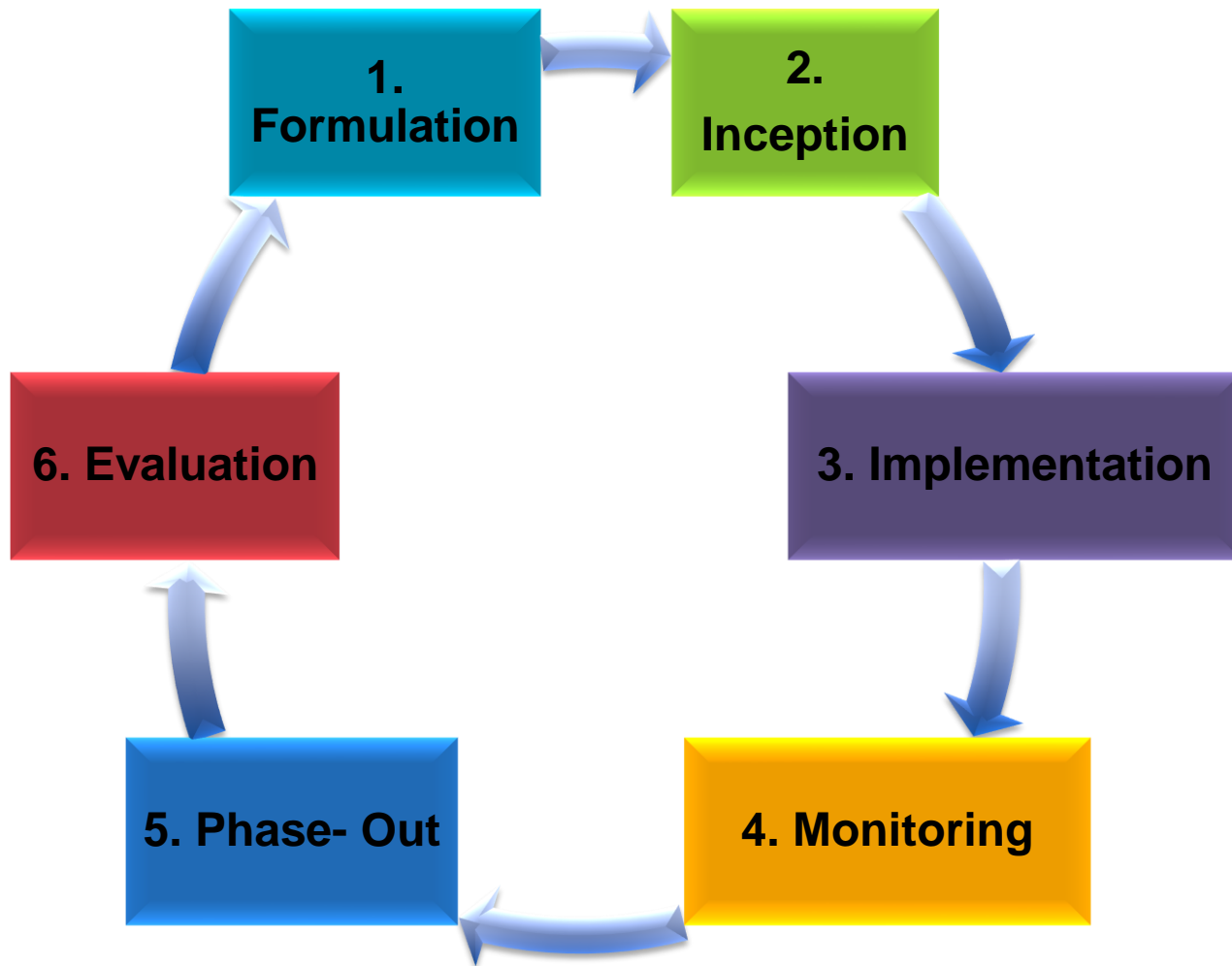
Increased knowledge on the socio economic, political dynamics, environmental consideration of Arab rural communities and understanding of appropriate Small Scale RE technologies

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

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

Thank you



UNITED NATIONS

الأمم المتحدة

ESCWA



Sweden

Sverige