



Shared Prosperity Dignified Life



Regional Workshop on “Policy Toolkit as Guidelines for Policymakers to Integrate Small-Scale Renewable Energy in Rural Development”

2 December 2021 at 10:00 – 12:00 (Beirut Time)

Please join using the Zoom link below:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85465329206?pwd=amo1ajltcnZURWY5N24zNTg1NWNHUT09>

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

Organizers: UN ESCWA and Sida

Background

Sustainable energy is fundamental to rural development and resilience. Despite many Arab countries’ significant progress in providing large portions of their citizens with energy, rural communities in the Arab region are still struggling with access to sustainable energy, with particularly precarious situations in the Arab LDCs, but also significant challenges in parts of rural areas in the Maghreb and Mashreq countries. Small-scale renewable energy could increase the access to energy and have a major positive impact on the livelihoods of rural communities; however, it requires effective policymaking and institutions capable of driving localized policies that suit countries’ and communities’ needs.

The [United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia \(ESCWA\)](#) and [the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency \(Sida\)](#) are implementing the “[Regional Initiative for Promoting Small-Scale Renewable Energy Applications in Rural Areas of the Arab Region \(REGEND\)](#)”. REGEND aims to improve the livelihood, gender equality and social inclusion of Arab rural communities particularly marginalized groups, by addressing energy poverty, water scarcity and vulnerability to climate change. This will be achieved through using appropriate small-scale renewable energy technologies for productive activities and entrepreneurial development, women’s gender empowerment with emphasis on job creation and developing robust value chains in a nexus approach to encourage a sustainable economy.

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) is organizing a regional workshop on “Policy Toolkit as Guidelines for Policymakers to Integrate Small-Scale Renewable Energy in Rural Development” on 2 December 2021 at 10:00 – 12:00 (Beirut Time).

Objective

The workshop will convene regional and international partners active in sustainable energy development, rural development, and policy making to explore and discuss policy options, guidelines for financing, innovative incentive mechanisms, best practices for facilitating the dissemination and use of small-scale RE technologies for enhanced livelihood and gender equality in rural areas through entrepreneurial activities, respect of human rights and gender mainstreaming within an integrated approach. The workshop will facilitate the exchange of experiences and opinions on the challenges and opportunities of the creation of markets for electricity using small-scale renewable energy technologies in rural communities across Arab countries. The workshop also aims to explore the policies that could allow rural women to benefit from the introduction of small-scale renewable energy technologies.

The wealth of experiences exchanged will enable the collection of best practices and policy setting guidelines and will hence lead to the formulation of recommendations for policymakers aiming to increase the use of small-scale renewable energy technologies for rural development and women empowerment.

Agenda

Welcoming: ESCWA

REGEND Policy Toolkit presentation: (15 mins)

- Ms. Radia Sedaoui, Chief of the Energy Section, Climate Change and Natural Resource Sustainability Cluster (CCNRSC), ESCWA.

Interactive panel (Davos style) (60 mins)

- Ms. Jamila Matar, Director Energy, League of Arab States (LAS).
- Mr. Jawad El Kharraz, Executive Director, Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE).
- Mr. Zoheir Hamed, MENA Programme Officer, International Renewable Energy Agency.
- Ms. Fida'a Rawabdeh, Chairman of Regional Office of Eastern Arab Area, Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD).
- Ms. Helene Ben Khamis, Chief of Section, Solar Energy Department, National Agency for Energy Conservation (ANME), Tunisia.
- Mr. Zeyad Alsaaydeh, Director of Rural Electrification Department, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources (MEMR), Jordan.
- Ms. Jessica Obeid, Independent Consultant, Lebanon.

Q&A (15 mins)

Wrap-up (5 mins)