



Webinar:

Financing the Upscaling of Building Energy Efficiency Programmes for Climate Change Mitigation and Sustainable Development in the Arab Region

Date & Time: Monday, the 13th December 2021 from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. Beirut Time

Virtual Events Platform:

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMudO2grDorHdWR0erI5YVjzQTRXZZ_8In-

Language: Arabic, English and French. Simultaneous interpretation from and into the Arabic, English and French languages will be provided

Background:

Improving energy efficiency (EE) is an integral part of SDG 7, 'Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all', with a specific target 7.3 'By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency.' Scaling up EE in the building sector will result in substantially lower energy consumption, thus decreasing energy bills, allowing access to additional energy services by vulnerable segments of society, and reducing the risk of energy vulnerability in these segments. Beyond energy, EE measures also contribute directly towards the progress of several other SDGs.

Analysis of energy consumption patterns in the Arab region shows that residential and service sectors represent an important part of total consumption of energy with a share of at least one third of total primary energy consumed, and over 60% of electricity consumption. Furthermore, all energy scenarios indicate that electricity demand is set to rise drastically in the near future. Despite this, improving EE in the building sector in the region is not addressed with the required urgency leading to insufficient allocation of financial resources. This lack of timely actions will lead to a lock-in of high energy consuming and energy inefficient building stock thereby leading to high building energy demand for several decades, which may be difficult to be supplied by low energy density renewable energy sources. Continued use of fossil fuels for meeting high specific energy demand buildings will lead to higher utility bills, increased vulnerability to volatility in international fossil fuel prices and a weakened ability to respond to climate change mitigation, slowing down development efforts across the region. Therefore, there is an immediate need for scaling up EE in the building sector by attracting private and public finance into EE projects and programmes.

Nevertheless, there are several barriers to upscaling investments in EE in the building sector. Some of these barriers are universal, but others are specific to the Arab region. This implies the need for a thorough review of successful examples of EE financing instruments that have been implemented at the international level, as well as some of the experiences from the region. The aim is to identify the ones that can be used to guide the design and development of specific financing instruments for building EE in the Arab region, according to each country's specificities (economic situation, existing financial institutions/structures, existing regulatory, policy, and incentive frameworks, etc.).

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) have joined their efforts to develop a toolkit providing Arab countries with a selection of available instruments for financing sustainable energy transition

which may be used to identify suitable ways for harnessing international finance for the building sector. The toolkit also presents the background required for developing such instruments and can be used to build the capacity of member States in securing international capital for sustainable energy transitions and derisking EE investments, particularly in the building sector.

In this context, ESCWA jointly with the IsDB are organizing a Webinar on “**Financing the Upscaling of Building Energy Efficiency Programs in the Arab Region**” on the **13th December 2021, from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M., Beirut Time**. The overall objective of the Webinar is to present the outcomes of the “**Toolkit for Energy Efficiency Financing Instruments for Buildings in the Arab region**” developed by ESCWA with support from IsDB. It also aims to enhance the capacity and knowledge of participants from the Arab region on how to effectively develop financing instruments for upscaling EE investments in the building sector in their respective countries and integrate related EE projects and programs into their national development plans.

The Webinar will address and discuss the following:

- The barriers and opportunities to scaling up building EE in the Arab region
- EE policy for the Arab region and the role of financing instruments
- International and regional examples of EE financing instruments including EE funds and credit lines
- Strategies to address the financial barriers to upscaling EE in the building sector in the Arab region
- Propose instruments to develop smart market solutions and models to de-risk EE in the Arab region

Agenda:

Master of Ceremony and Moderator: (5 mins)

- **Ms. Radia Sedaoui**, Chief Energy at Climate Change and Natural resource Sustainability Cluster (CCNRSC), UNESCWA

Welcoming Remarks: (10 mins)

- **Mr Hussain Mogaibel**, Global Lead Energy Specialist at Economic and Social Infrastructure Department, IsDB

Keynote presentation: (20 mins)

- **Mr. Steven Fawkes**, International Energy Expert, United Kingdom
- **Mr. Mongi Bida**, First Economic Officer at CCNRSC, UNESCWA

Moderated panel Discussion: (40 mins)

- **Ms. Kawther Lihidheb**, Senior Energy Efficiency Specialist and Business development, ECONOLER, Tunisia

- **Ms. Shada El-Sharif**, Climate and Sustainability Advisor, Founder of SustanMENA, Jordan
- **Ms. Florentine Visser**, Senior advisor in the Energy Team of the International Development Department at the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO), Netherlands
- **Mr. Menouer Boughedaoui**, Professor at University of Blida Faculty of Engineering, Algeria

Q&A (40 mins)

Closing remarks (5 mins):

ESCWA and IsDB