



Shared Prosperity Dignified Life



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

### Multi-stakeholder forum (MSF) on small-scale renewable energy technology use for entrepreneurial development and gender mainstreaming in productive sectors within rural areas

Kempinski Hotel, Amman, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, 23 November 2021

## INFORMATION NOTE

Under the “[Regional Initiative for Promoting Small-Scale Renewable Energy Applications in Rural Areas of the Arab Region \(REGEND\)](#)” Project, and within the framework of the [Eleventh International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development \(IFESD-11\)](#), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA), in partnership with the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources (MEMR) and the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), is organizing a multi-stakeholder forum (MSF) on small-scale renewable energy technology use for entrepreneurial development and gender mainstreaming in productive sectors within rural areas.

The MSF will be held at the Kempinski Hotel, Amman, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, on 23 November 2021.

### 1. Background Information

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-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)”. This regional initiative includes several partners in implementation such as the League of Arab States (LAS), line ministries, local authorities, various regional organizations, UN organizations, local and regional NGOs, research institutions and academia.

By using appropriate small-scale renewable energy (RE) technologies for productive activities and entrepreneurial development, REGEND aims to improve the livelihood, economic benefits, social inclusion and gender equality of Arab rural communities, particularly marginalized groups, through a bottom-up and integrated approach by addressing energy poverty, water scarcity, vulnerability to climate change and other natural resources challenges in three targeted countries, namely: Jordan, Lebanon and Tunisia.

REGEND is nearing its completion where small-scale RE projects were implemented, productive equipment were procured, and capacity-building activities were organized in rural areas of Jordan, all while using an integrated approach, for the benefit of local organizations and entrepreneurs and with a focus on productive activities, gender empowerment, and entrepreneurial development. The positive impacts on these rural communities that the REGEND business model was able to achieve further drive the need for wide dissemination of its best practices, success stories, and lessons learned.

For this purpose and in this context, ESCWA, in partnership with MEMR and MOA, is organizing an MSF as the closing event for the REGEND project and as a match-making event to bring together different stakeholder groups such as beneficiaries, national institutions, decision makers, local organizations, and

academia to bridge the communication gap between the various stakeholders and build effective and sustainable partnerships for future and potential coordination and collaboration.

## **2. Objectives of the Forum**

The main objectives of the forum include, but are not limited to the following:

- present and reflect on REGEND’s best practices, success stories, and lessons learned and discuss the way forward after its completion with effective and sustainable partnerships for future and potential coordination and collaboration.
- help and convene a diversified mix of national stakeholders required to design and implement, in a participatory manner, adequate solutions to the problems and opportunities identified by REGEND and its assessments and activities.
- function as a platform for information exchange and dialogue and stimulate the institutionalization of rural entrepreneurial activities.
- help contribute to the establishment of an active network of arab rural practitioners who work on the design and development of activities within the productive sectors of the rural areas and thus strengthen local capacities to increase the uptake of small-scale RE deployment directed to attract investments.
- develop a “strategic agenda on renewable energy and rural development” and explore its operationalization into practical projects which will be based on spreading awareness on RE technologies (RETs) and their actual application to establish integrated sustainable development models for empowering rural women and youth.

## **3. Participants**

The MSF on small-scale RE technology use for entrepreneurial development and gender mainstreaming in productive sectors within rural areas will bring together different stakeholder groups such as beneficiaries, national institutions, decision makers, local organizations, and academia.

## **4. Date and Venue**

The MSF on small-scale RE technology use for entrepreneurial development and gender mainstreaming in productive sectors within rural areas will be held at the Kempinski Hotel, Amman, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, on Tuesday, 23 November 2021.

Registration is scheduled for 08:30 A.M. and the forum will conclude by 04:00 P.M.

## **5. Language**

The MSF will be conducted in the Arabic and English languages with interpretation services provided to/from each language.

## **6. Correspondence**

All correspondence related to the workshop is to be sent to either one of the below addresses:

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