UNITED NATIONS



Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Report

National Workshop on "Regulatory, Institutional, and Financial Frameworks Needed to Promote Small-Scale Renewable Energy Technologies and Applications for Rural Development"

Amman, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, 17 August 2021

Summary

The UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) organized a workshop in Jordan on 17 August 2021 entitled "Regulatory, Institutional, and Financial Frameworks Needed to Promote Small-Scale Renewable Energy Technologies and Applications for Rural Development". The workshop aimed at supporting the development of a case study for Jordan addressing the policy, regulatory, financial, and legal frameworks applicable in the rural development context by integrating the energy, water, agricultural sectors and gender equity and entrepreneurial development through a holistic approach. The case study provides guidelines to conceptualize REGEND's 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 the use of small-scale renewable energy technologies and applications in productive activities in the rural areas.

Through its parallel brainstorming sessions, the workshop enabled the participants representing various institutions and sectors related to rural development in Jordan to engage in constructive discussions focused on the presentation and analysis of policies and strategies, and alternative drivers, as well as regulatory, financial, and incentive frameworks for rural development, the promotion of small-scale renewable energy applications, gender mainstreaming, and entrepreneurship readiness. This resulted in the identification of the key barriers and challenges faced and paved the way for the formulation of solutions.

The workshop concluded with a series of recommendations that address strategic institutional and regulatory reforms, awareness raising, capacity building, coordination, and financial and funding aspects. These recommendations aim to create the enabling environment towards improved rural development in Jordan, with small-scale renewable energy as an enabler.

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I. INTRODUCTION

- 1. The UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) organized a workshop on 17 August 2021 entitled "Regulatory, Institutional, and Financial Frameworks Needed to Promote Small-Scale Renewable Energy Technologies and Applications for Rural Development".
- 2. The workshop aimed at supporting the development of the Regional Initiative to Promote Small—Scale Renewable Energy Applications in Rural Areas of the Arab Region (REGEND)'s study in Jordan by addressing policy, regulatory, financial and legal frameworks applicable in a rural context. It further shed the light on the importance of integrating planning in the energy, water, and the agricultural sectors along with a focus on gender equality and entrepreneurial development through a holistic approach. The case study provides guidelines that conceptualize REGEND's policy toolkit as regional strategic guidelines to improve the enabling environment for the private sector and women entrepreneurs to invest in incomegenerating activities by increasing the use of small-scale RE technologies and applications in productive activities in the rural areas.
- 3. The workshop was attended by 28 participants representing national, governmental, and financial institutions, UN and international organizations, national experts and representatives from the private sector, and local communities in Jordan. The list of participants is included in Annex II.
- 4. The workshop spanned over five hours and consisted of two sessions. Section II of this report summarizes the workshop's recommendations while Section III provides a summary of the presentations and the main topics of discussion held during the two sessions. Section IV reviews the organization of work, including information regarding the workshop's agenda and participants. The full documentation of the workshop is available at the following link:

 $\frac{https://www.unescwa.org/events/regulatory-institutional-and-financial-frameworks-needed-promote-small-scale-renewable-0}{$

II. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5. The workshop concluded with the following recommendations based on two discussion groups:
 - **A.** Group 1: Policies, strategies, and institutional and regulatory frameworks for rural development and promotion of small-scale renewable energy.
 - Develop a comprehensive data collection system through an integrated Water Energy Food (WEF) nexus approach.
 - Develop a targeted incentive mechanism to stimulate small-scale renewable energy deployment.
 - Develop an inclusive, gender-responsive rural development strategy.
 - Advance policies and legislation to strengthen the role of municipalities in rural development.
 - Review governmental policies and ensure the stability and coherence of laws and regulations concerning renewable energy, rural development, and women empowerment.
 - Ensure a unified, integrated policy framework among relevant governmental entities. This includes the unification of strategies, objectives, monitoring, evaluation, and all aspects of governance.
 - **B.** Group 2: Funding and incentive frameworks for rural development and promotion of renewable energy.
 - Assign specific policies and criteria for easy access to agricultural/rural productivity loans with zero interest rates
 - Enhance access to online financing/e-payments to reduce transport/access challenges in rural areas.

- Simplify the process of benefiting from existing financing schemes, particularly for rural communities.
- Increase the number of targeted financing windows (mainly grants), particularly for women in rural
 areas, ensuring their sustainability and continuity.
- Raise awareness on the risks of obtaining loans, particularly among women.
- Empower community-based organizations (CBOs) (mainly women-led) and integrate renewable energy systems within their frameworks.
- Raise awareness on renewable energy and energy efficiency systems and their economic benefit among all segments of society in the rural context.
- Ensure stability of laws and legislation around clean energy technologies.
- Take aspects such as energy poverty and energy intensity (power/m²) into account in policy planning.
- Ensure a unified framework for all ministries and governmental bodies.
- Link WEF nexus with climate change policies and financing windows.
- Empower rural women through targeted policies that would stimulate their economic participation.

III. MAIN TOPICS OF DISCUSSIONS

6. Presentations and discussions are summarized in the following sections which are organized according to the substantive sessions of the workshop.

A. OPENING

- 7. ESCWA introduced the REGEND project, its objectives, main pillars, current progress, expected impacts, sustainability, and approach. The presentation also gave an overview of the small-scale renewable energy (RE) field projects and capacity-building activities implemented in the villages of Batir and AlAcha'ary in Jordan as part of the REGEND project. ESCWA reported that there are a total of 12 small-scale solar energy field projects in Batir and AlAcha'ary with a total rated capacity of 76 kWp, impacting 850 beneficiaries (direct and indirect). Furthermore, the field projects also include equipping the cooperatives with productive equipment to enhance their activities; ESCWA presented the provided equipment so far. Finally, a sample the knowledge products of REGEND were presented, such as the Assessment Report of Prevailing Situations in Rural Areas in Jordan; the Study on Gender Mainstreaming, Social Inclusion, Human Rights Processes and Outcomes of Access to Energy in Targeted Local Communities in Jordan; and the Renewable Energy Operational Toolkit.
- 8. The presentation was concluded with a brief summary about the workshop program and its objectives.
- 9. The introduction highlighted the linkages between the different activities under the REGEND project, including a baseline and gender assessment, upon which the case study of policy recommendations were built.

B. RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND EXISTING POTENTIAL FOR RENEWABLE ENERGIES

- 10. Analysis of policies, strategies, as well as regulatory, financial and incentive frameworks for rural development and promotion of small-scale renewable energy within the framework of the REGEND project:
 - a. ESCWA presented a comprehensive case study analysis of policy drivers and strategies including regulatory, incentive, and financial frameworks for rural development and small-scale RE implementation in Jordan. The presentation emphasized the role of small-scale RE technologies and applications in promoting rural development and women's economic empowerment, and also identified challenges at the regulatory, institutional, and financial levels. It also included an analysis of relevant sectoral strategies that overlap with rural development, highlighting gaps in addressing the food-water-energy and climate nexus in a rural development context.

- b. The presentation highlighted the role small-scale RE systems can play in rural productive activities and food-based businesses, particularly for rural women. This included an emphasis on the importance of integrating small-scale RE systems to reduce the financial burden for rural productive activities, in addition to highlighting the role of complementary activities like eco-tourism and the associated socio-economic benefits associated with it.
- c. Shortcomings in institutional, regulatory and legal frameworks were highlighted, including the fragmentation of laws and regulations, and the insufficient coordination between the relevant institutions and local actors active in the rural development space. In addition, the lack of a consolidated policy and regulatory framework was highlighted as a key challenge hindering holistic planning of rural development and the integration of small-scale RE in the rural context. The presentation also covered financial impediments, both in terms of governmental and other financing mechanisms.
- d. The current and alternative policy drivers were then discussed, with a focus on policy objectives, guidelines and actions in order to advance rural socio-economic growth, resource optimization, investment attraction, entrepreneurship promotion, technology transfer and innovation, women inclusion and empowerment, enhanced competitiveness, deployment, and financing mechanisms optimization. The policy objectives could be summarized as below:
 - i. Productive opportunities for rural women
 - ii. Holistic governmental cooperation
 - iii. Overall rural development
 - iv. Create a suitable business environment
- e. The presentation concluded with legal and regulatory, institutional, financial and capacity-building recommendations to strengthen the role of small-scale RE in rural development and economic empowerment of women in rural areas through an integrated approach.
- 11. Policy, strategy, institutional and legislative frameworks for rural development: challenges and opportunities:
 - a. A presentation by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) included an overview of the organization's area of work including policy and strategy development to advisory and capacity building. It also highlighted the main priorities for rural development in Jordan including:
 - i. Disaster preparedness and response in the agricultural sector.
 - ii. Sustainable development and use of natural resources, including water, land, range and forests.
 - iii. Resilience of rural and peri-urban livelihoods.
 - iv. Competitiveness of agricultural products in domestic and export markets for inclusive growth and employment.
 - b. The presentation then shed light on various legal and regulatory support FAO is providing to the Government of Jordan including the upcoming Food Security Strategy, as well as several rural development projects.
- 12. Policy, strategy, institutional and legislative frameworks for promoting small-scale RE Systems:
 - a. A presentation by the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resource (MEMR) highlighted Jordan's achievements in the fields of RE and energy efficiency (EE) as Jordan benefits from high quality solar and wind resources. It also included an overview of Jordan's electricity sector, the Jordan Energy Strategy (JES), and the updated RE targets.
 - b. Furthermore, it presented the regulatory framework concerning the RE and EE sectors in Jordan and provided an overview of the policy approach and relevant financial and technical mechanisms, laws, and bylaws that drive the development of the sector and increase RE deployment in line with national targets.

- c. Finally, the presentation concluded with statistics on the number of RE systems installed in Jordan and their total capacity and electricity generation, where a total of 2,063 MW of operational renewable energy capacity was reported.
- 13. Programs and financing mechanisms for promoting small-scale RE systems:
 - a. A presentation by Jordan RE and EE Fund (JREEEF)'s included a comprehensive overview of JREEEF and its achievements in the past years. It also emphasized the efforts done to ensure the sustainability and continuity of the fund over the years, and the importance of conducting partnerships and attracting grants from both local and international bodies.
 - b. The presentation highlighted financial mechanisms and windows available, and the partnerships JREEF conducted with local financial institutions such as banks, microfinance institutions, and local NGOs/CBOs. Furthermore, it summarized JREEF's programs within various sectors where it covered information and achievements of each program.
 - c. It also emphasized the role of JREEEF in supporting vulnerable populations and providing them with electricity access in cooperation with "Fils Alreef", another RE/EE financing window through MEMR. Additionally, it presented the awareness-raising and capacity-building programs implemented to advocate for integrating RE and EE systems and stimulate their deployment across the country.
- 14. Policy, strategy and institutional frameworks to support rural women:
 - a. A presentation by the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) provided an overview of the policy and regulatory framework concerning the economic, social, and political development of women, particularly rural women. It also highlighted the local policies and strategies impacting rural women empowerment in Jordan.
 - b. Furthermore, the presentation shed light on the national strategic objectives in Jordan as well as the MOA's specific goals for women empowerment. It also summarized the objectives and actions proposed in Jordan's National Women Strategy concerning women economic and social empowerment.
 - c. It emphasized the important role women play in agricultural development and rural productive activities, and the socio-economic impacts of women participation in the labor market. It also highlighted the gaps, barriers and challenges faced by rural women, hindering their economic development and participation. Additionally, it presented the existing social and cultural challenges and their impact on rural women empowerment.
 - d. Finally, the presentation highlighted the various entities supporting rural women in Jordan, including governmental, non-governmental bodies, and local and international organizations.
- 15. Subsequently, the floor was opened for participants to ask questions and engage in discussion with the presenters.
 - C. ANALYSIS OF POLICIES, STRATEGIES, REGULATORY, INSTITUTIONAL, FINANCIAL AND INCENTIVE FRAMEWORKS FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION OF SMALL-SCALE RE SYSTEMS
- 16. During this session, participants were divided into two discussion groups as follows:
 - a. **Group 1:** Policies, strategies, and institutional and regulatory frameworks for rural development and promotion of small-scale renewable energy.
 - The group discussed the current policies, strategies and regulatory frameworks and worked on identifying the strength and weaknesses of governmental strategies concerning rural

- development and the integration of small-scale RE systems. It also identified the existing barriers, particularly in relation to gender equality and women empowerment.
- Furthermore, the group discussed proposed improvements, modifications and actions, and then concluded with a set of recommendations targeting policy, strategy and regulatory framework enhancement.
- b. **Group 2:** Funding and incentive frameworks for rural development and promotion of renewable energies.
 - The group discussed the existing funding and financial mechanisms targeting rural communities and RE systems in Jordan. The group analyzed the existing mechanisms and worked on identifying the strengths and weaknesses, in addition to the gaps, barriers and challenges faced by rural communities and their access to adequate finance. It also discussed gender equality aspects in access to finance, particularly challenges facing rural women and the reasons behind loans/grants misuse and debt issues.
 - Furthermore, the group discussed the necessary improvements, modifications and accompanying measures that could be implemented to enhance access to finance and further integrate RE systems through targeted incentives. The group then concluded with a set of recommendations.
- c. The two groups presented their analysis results and recommendations.
- d. ESCWA delivered a summary of the analysis of policies, strategies, as well as the key messages and recommendations on organizational, institutional, financial and incentive frameworks for rural development and integration of RE systems.

D. CLOSING SESSION

17. The workshop sessions were closed by Ms. Roula Majdalani, Cluster Leader of the Climate Change and Natural Resources Sustainability Cluster (CCNRSC), ESCWA; Mr. Ziad Al Sa'aideh, Director of the Directorate of Electricity and Rural Electrification, MEMR; Ms. Lama Al Shamayleh, Director of MoA's Economic Empowerment of Rural Women Department, and Ms. Radia Sedaoui, Chief of the Energy Section, CCNRSC, ESCWA. The closing statement emphasized the fruitful discussions during the workshop and the intention to continue coordinating and collaborating with the represented stakeholders on shared priorities.

IV. ORGANIZATION OF WORK

A. DATE AND VENUE

18. The workshop was held at the Kempinski Hotel in Amman, Jordan on 17 August 2021 from 8:00am to 14:00pm Amman time.

B. OPENING

- 19. Opening Speech: The workshop was formally opened by Ms. Roula Majdalani, Cluster Leader of the CCNRSC, ESCWA and Mr. Ziad Al Sa'aideh, Director of the Directorate of Electricity and Rural Electrification, MEMR. The draft case study report, prepared by ESCWA under the REGEND project, was shared with all the represented stakeholders for their input and feedback prior to the workshop.
- 20. Opening Presentations: The opening presentation was delivered by Ms. Radia Sedaoui, Chief of the Energy Section, CCNRSC, ESCWA.

C. PARTICIPANTS

21. The workshop was attended by 28 participants representing various national, government and financial institutions, UN and international organizations, and national experts, representatives from the private sector, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academia and local communities in Jordan.

D. AGENDA

- 22. Presentations and discussions were made over two sessions. The workshop agenda is summarized below and the full agenda in Arabic is enclosed in Annex I:
 - a. Registration
 - b. Opening session
 - c. Session 1: Rural development and the possibilities available for renewable energies: a study and analysis of the Jordanian national context
 - d. Coffee break
 - e. Session 2: Analysis of policies, strategies, regulatory, institutional, financial and incentive frameworks for rural development and promotion of small-scale RE systems
 - f. Results of the working groups
 - g. Closing remarks and way forward
 - h. Group picture and Lunch

E. EVALUATION

- 23. An evaluation questionnaire was distributed to the participants to assess the relevance, effectiveness, and impact of the workshop. The feedback received from the 20 respondents was positive with 100% agreeing that the workshop met their expectations and was well organized, structured, and coordinated, and was held in a suitable venue. Furthermore, 76% of the respondents found that the time allocated for the workshop was enough.
- 24. Below are some of the comments, feedbacks, and proposals collected from the evaluation forms:
 - a. The key messages and recommendations of the workshop are to be shared with the participants so that they are able to follow up, and to be presented in Jordan's UNCT meeting to ensure that they are spread among the UN agencies.
 - b. To streamline the activities of the UN agencies to maximize the benefits, avoid redundancy, and ensure visibility in most of the countries.
 - c. To replicate REGEND's field projects in other governorates in Jordan for similarly deserving beneficiaries, while keeping the women empowerment at the heart of the projects and linking them to renewable energy.
 - d. To shed light on foods that are of cultural and traditional importance due to their relevance to the rural context. Support could be in terms of capacity building in the fields of trademarks and concessions.
 - e. To involve the private sector in such initiatives due to the added value that it can provide.
 - f. Regional cooperation and communication among Arab countries to exchange experiences in the fields of small-scale renewable energy in rural areas.

ANNEX I: AGENDA



الأمم المتحدة

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اللجنة الاقتصادية والاجتماعية لغربي آسيا (الإسكوا)

ورشة عمل وطنية حول "السّياسات والأطر التنظيميّة والمؤسّسيّة والماليّة اللّازمة للنهوض بتكنولوجيات الطّاقات المتجددة الصغيرة السعة وتطبيقاتها لفائدة التنمية الريفية"

فندق الكمبينسكي، المملكة الأردنية الهاشمية، 17 آب/أغسطس 2021

حده ل الأعمال

جنون الاصفاد			
استقبال وتسجيل الحضور.	08:30 - 09:00		
	الجلسة الافتتاحية:		
كلمات الافتتاح:	09:00 – 09:10		
 السيدة رُلى مجداني، رئيسة فريق تغير المناخ واستدامة الموارد الطبيعية، الإسكوا. 			
 السيد زياد السعايدة، مدير مديرية الكهرباء وكهربة الريفية، وزارة الطاقة والثروة المعدنية. 			
التعريف بالحضور	09:10 – 09:20		
مشروع "المبادرة الإقليمية لتعزيز تطبيقات الطاقات المتجددة صغيرة السِّعة في المناطق الريفية في المنطقة العربية	09:20 - 09:30		
(REGEND)" ومدى تقدم تنفيذه.			
السيدة راضية سداوي، رئيسة قسم الطاقة، مجموعة تغير المناخ واستدامة الموارد الطبيعية، الإسكوا.			
التنمية الريفية والإمكانات المتاحة للطاقات المتجددة: دراسة وتحليل السياق الوطني الأردني.	الجلسة الأولى		
إدارة الجلسة: السيد جيل أمين، مسؤول في شؤون التنمية المستدامة، قسم الطاقة، مجموعة تغير المناخ واستدامة الموارد الطبيعية، الإسكوا.			
المقرر: السيد عمر الكعكي، باحث مساعد، قسم الطاقة، مجموعة تغير المناخ واستدامة الموارد الطبيعية، الإسكوا.			
تحليل السياسات والاستراتيجيات والأطر التنظيميّة والماليّة والتحفيزيّة للتنمية الريفيّة والنهوض بالطاقات المتجدّدة	09:30 – 09:50		
صغيرة السِّعة في إطار مشروع "REGEND". السيدة شدى الشريف، مستشارة لدى الإسكوا.			
السياسة والاستراتيجية والأطر المؤسسية والتشريعية للتنمية الريفية: التحديات و الفرص السيدة وفاء الرماضنة، ممثل مساعد لمنظمة الأغذية والزراعة للأمم المتحدة في الأردن	09:50 – 10:00		
السياسة والإستراتيجية والأطر المؤسسية والتشريعية للنهوض بالطاقات المتجددة الصغيرة السِبّعة. السيد يعقوب مرار، مدير مديرية الطاقة المتجددة وترشيد الطاقة، وزارة الطاقة والثروة المعدنية.	10:00 – 10:10		

	Т
البرامج وآليات التمويل للنهوض بالطاقات المتجددة الصغيرة السِّعة. السيد رسمي حمزة، المدير التنفيذي، صندوق الطاقة المتجددة وترشيد الطاقة.	10:10 – 10:20
السياسة والإستراتيجية والأطر المؤسسية لدعم المرأة الريفية. السياسة لدعم المرأة الريفية، وزارة الزراعة.	10:20 – 10:40
أسئلة وأجوبة	10:40 – 11:00
استراحة قهوة	11:00-11:20
تحليل السياسات والاستراتيجيات والأطر التنظيمية والمؤسسية والمالية والتحفيزية للتنمية الريفية والنهوض	الجلسة الثانية
بالطاقات المتجددة صغيرة السِّعة.	
تأطير عمل فرق التفكير.	
السيدة راضية سداوي، رئيسة قسم الطاقة، مجموعة تغير المناخ واستدامة الموارد الطبيعية، الإسكوا.	
الفريق الأول: سياسات واستر اتيجيات والأطر المؤسسية والتنظيمية للتنمية الريفية والنهوض بالطاقات المتجددة الصغيرة	
السِّعة.	
الميسر: يُعين يوم الورشة.	
المقرر: يُعيّن من ضمن الفريق.	
الفريق الثاني: الأطر التمويلية والتحفيزية للتنمية الريفية والنهوض بالطاقات المتجددة صغيرة السِّعة.	
الميسر: يُعين يوم الورشة.	11:20 – 12:50
المقرر: يُعيّن من ضمن الفريق.	
يجب تركيز التفكير حول النقاط الرئيسية التالية:	
يبنب مرسير مصير عول مصد مرسيسي مصير . - نقاط القوة والضعف؟	
الحواجز؛	
 المساواة بين الجنسين وتمكين المرأة؟ 	
- الممارسات الجيدة؛	
 التعديلات اللازمة والتحسينات والإصلاحات؛ 	
 تدابیر المرافقة؛ 	
	رد عمل فرق التفكر
عرض نتائج فرق التفكير (10 دقائق لكل عرض)	12:50 – 13:10
مقرري فرق التفكير.	
ملخص نتائج تحليل السياسات والاستراتيجيات والأطر التنظيمية والمؤسسية والمالية والتحفيزية للتنمية الريفية	13:10 – 13:30
والنهوض بالطاقات المتجددة صغيرة السِّعة	13.10 – 13.30
السيدة شدى الشريف، مستشارة لدى الإسكوا.	
ملخص الرسائل الرئيسية والتوصيات للمضي قُدماً.	13:30 – 13:45
السيدة راضية سداوي، رئيسة قسم الطاقة، مجموعة تغير المناخ واستدامة الموارد الطبيعية، الإسكوا.	15:30 – 15:43
:	اختتام ورشة العمل
 السيد زياد السعايدة، مدير مديرية الكهرباء وكهربة الريفية، وزارة الطاقة والثروة المعدنية. 	
 السيدة لما الشمايله، رئيسة التمكين الاقتصادي للمرأة الريفية، وزارة الزراعة. 	13:45 – 14:00
 السيدة راضية سداوي، رئيسة قسم الطاقة، مجموعة تغير المناخ واستدامة الموارد الطبيعية، الإسكوا. 	
راحة غداء	

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