

PARTNER WORKING SESSIONS: OUTCOME DOCUMENT

The aim of Partner Working Sessions is to catalyze action that will be sustained beyond the Forum. This outcome document is designed to enable partners to continue to work towards progress on SDG 7.

SESSION TITLE: Last Mile First: Maximizing the impacts of energy access across the SDGs

SESSION OVERVIEW: This session explored market activation and the provision of energy services beyond the household level for productive and community uses to enable resilient and inclusive local development. It considered different approaches used by governments, CSOs and businesses to plan and deliver last-mile energy solutions in different contexts, aiming to identify best practices. It highlighted the key opportunities as well as the challenges for scaling-up last mile energy service delivery, particularly for higher levels of power.

Using evidence from concrete projects and approaches, the session aimed to identify the key challenges and success factors in planning and delivering energy solutions for critical community development needs (such as healthcare and education) and for livelihood activities, particularly for last mile, remote and vulnerable communities. The session was an interactive discussion structured around key questions for panellists, discussants and the audience.

OUTCOMES: The main outcomes of the workshop included:

- **Greater awareness** of the variety of approaches- from integrated planning, 'mini grid' game and participatory demand assessment, social protection, and local entrepreneurship- involved in achieving energy for last mile communities
- **Clear understanding** of the planning approaches of the Government of Kenya with reference to National energy planning, County Integrated energy plans,
- **In-depth discussions** and provoking questions on Financing- how do we balance the role of the private sector and the government in facilitating finance for decentralized renewable energy systems
- **Potential ideas** for how Government can better undertake planning that ensures energy access is integrated into delivery of other developmental services and how CSOs, social enterprises can be better integrated into the process were discussed.

NEXT STEPS and TIMELINE

- Build a Knowledge and Capacity building platform to share learnings and best practices on energy access (including examples of energy to meet other SDGs; social, financial, technical aspects of the solutions; approaches to meet energy needs of last mile communities) among ACCESS members and within the broader NGO sector. Will be hosted by ACCESS.
 - Timeline: currently in Inception stages- 3-6 months to set up
- Undertake country-focused research on Social protection approaches in 2-3 specific countries
 - Timeline: 3-6 months (approx.) to commission the detailed studies
- Increase the usage/application of bottom-up planning approaches such as the 'Energy Delivery Model', 'Mini grid game' etc that ensure long term sustainability (social, economic and technological) of projects on the ground and push for their adoption through Government agencies
 - Timeline: Ongoing
- Direct engagement through campaigns such as SHINE to increase investor and financier understanding of the energy access sector and the type of financial resources and advocacy needs of the sector.
 - Timeline: Ongoing