

Empowering Women, Engendering Energy-Nepal



The 'Empowering Women, Engendering Energy' project, funded by the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) will support women and vulnerable and marginalised communities, in a holistic manner, in achieving their potential of enterprise creation and development, making use of energy to boost their livelihoods and business opportunities. The project is co-funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) with its 'Strengthening the Capacity of the Energy Sector to Deliver Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Results' project.

Community electrification programmes have been successful in extending the national grid in remote areas. This has been executed through Electricity User Cooperatives (EUCs) in Nepal. Electrification enables the communities in many areas, such as education, communication, health, industrial development and agro-based activities. Access to electricity also allows communities to engage in these sectors and serves to generate income. In business and entrepreneurship development, a crucial section of population especially women, marginalised and vulnerable communities are left out. This is even more prevalent in rural areas and is mainly due to lack of access to energy, information, knowledge, opportunities and access to finance. The Empowering Women, Engendering Energy project will support women and vulnerable and marginalised communities to achieve their potential of enterprise creation and development. This

encourages women's greater productive use of electricity including affordable financing to purchase energy-efficient appliances for their businesses ultimately increasing their electrical demand from Community Electrification System and thereby enhancing its sustainability.

The EWEE project will:

- » Use a participatory approach, in design and implementation, engaging the relevant stakeholders, actors and institutions.
- » Devise systemic interventions, in line with overall system accessing the opportunities and indigenous skills in micro and macro level.
- » Promote 'Best Fit' businesses: Sustainable businesses that can be up-scaled.

Concrete Activities Include:

- a) Train at least 15 EUCs from different districts in executing a poor women's needs assessment;
- b) Give business orientation training to 500 women;
- c) Train 500 EUC woman members from marginalized groups in energy-based livelihoods/ technical skills; and
- d) Provide post-training support for accessing finance and market for such enterprises.

Approach and Methodology

Orientation to EDCs	Market Mapping	Need Assessment
Enterprise Development Coordinators (EDCs) will be trained on necessary skills to support woman entrepreneurs	Participatory Market System Development (PMSD) approach will be utilized to map local markets	Capacity needs of entrepreneur will be assessed, including their preparedness to access market and finance and business networks.
Training to WEs	Mentoring to WEs	Linkage with Finance
Training (Skill/ Business management including energy efficiency and productive use of energy) will be provided to WEs	WEs will be mentored regularly regarding daily operation, business planning, registration, marketing and finding new opportunity	Entrepreneurs will be supported to identify and negotiate with financial institutions for credit, including other opportunities.
Linkage with Ecosystem	Support to EUCs	Documentation
The enterprises will be linked with relevant ecosystem stakeholders including suppliers and vendors of value chains	EUCs will be supported to develop business plans that integrate productive use of energy into their visions and strategic plans.	Best practices and lesson learnt will be captured. The findings will be disseminated through various publications



Geographical Scope	Dhading, Lalitpur, Kavre, Sindhupalchowk, Dolakha, Ramechhap and Sindhuli districts
Duration	1.5 years, from January 1, 2019-June 29, 2020
Implementing Partner	The International Network on Gender and Sustainable Energy (ENERGIA – the lead), Centre for Rural Technology, Nepal (CRT/N) and Practical Action Consulting (PAC) Nepal
Strategic Partners	National Association of Community Electricity Users Nepal (NACEUN)
Funded By	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)
Co-funded By	Asian Development Bank