

Centre for Rural Technology, Nepal (CRT/N)

Energy: Empowering women. Uplifting life

Background and context

This proposal is in response to the Call for Proposal from ENERGIA, the Netherlands on Advocacy: Gender and Energy.

Traditional sources of energy hold the major share in energy demand and its consumption in Nepal. The ratio of traditional, commercial and renewable energy consumption still remains at 80.1 percent, 16.7 percent and 3.2 percent respectively in the first eight months of current fiscal year 2013/14 (**Economic Survey, 2013/2014**). GON, Ministry of Finance 2014). This lack of sustainable energy is harder on women, who have the sole responsibility of collecting and managing household energy especially required for domestic use: cooking, heating, preparation of animal feed and running home based income generation activities.

Realising the gap in energy access and the implications on health and economy of women, the Government of Nepal has initiated promulgated mainstreaming gender equity and social inclusion in the renewable energy sector with special emphasis to” **improve the living standard of rural women and men, increase employment of women and men as well as productivity, reduce dependency on traditional energy and attain sustainable development through integrating the alternative energy with the socioeconomic activities of women and men in rural communities**” within the National Rural and Renewable Energy Programme with various affirmative policy interventions. Further to reduce the energy gap, Nepal has committed to and is taking an important step towards actual implementation of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative (SE4ALL) launched by the United Nations Secretary-General, with the goals of providing universal access to modern energy services, doubling the rate of energy efficiency improvement and doubling the share of renewable energy in the energy mix by 2030. The country is presently working on framing the Country Action Agenda and Investment Prospectus to be completed by 2015.

However, with challenges of access, supply and usability of energy still persisting for women, there is still the need to address gaps and constraints of knowledge gaps; technical, institutional and financial barriers. This proposal will focus on addressing these constraints by advocating for: enhancing access to clean energy (off grid and on grid) for women for welfare and productive use, promoting women as service providers, encouraging financial institutes and private sector to integrate women friendly approaches in their service deliverance.

Project summary

This proposal is in response to the Call for Proposal from ENERGIA, the Netherlands on Advocacy: Gender and Energy.

This proposal is submitted by the Centre for Rural Technology, Nepal (CRT/N) leading a consortium of three organizations: Centre for Rural Technology, Nepal (CRT/N), Nepal Forum of Environmental Journalists (NEFEJ) and National Association of Community Electricity (NACEUN). Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPC) of the Government of Nepal has provided an official statement of collaboration and policy support to the proposed project.

The objective of the proposed initiative is to support the advocacy and communication on gender and social inclusion within the SE4ALL initiative in Nepal. The expected outcome is that increased understanding of gender, energy and social inclusion amongst SE4ALL stakeholder at the national and

sub national level in Nepal leading to the effective integration of GESI in the energy policies and programs and thereby contributing to the objectives of SE4ALL objectives.

This will be achieved through the following outputs: 1) The project partners have contributed to the planning and development of the SE4ALL National Action Agenda and investment prospectus that integrates a gender perspective and objectives 2) Campaigning at the national and subnational level on WEE and promoting energy access for both domestic and productive energy use 3) Contribute to international advocacy on gender responsive energy planning, budgeting and implementation focusing on accessibility, affordability and efficient use for both domestic and productive energy use.

This way the push is for creating awareness is targeted at three levels: Level 1: Community for energy use and access. Level 2: Energy service providers and Level 3: Policy makers and planners. The community level advocacy will focus on the six districts of supported by the ENERGIA project "Promoting Women-led Enterprises for Energy Access and Local Production (WEE-Nepal)" namely Khotang, Udaypur, Sindhuli, Kavre, Lalitpur, Dhading. The learning and case studies from these will be used to advocate for improved access to energy for empowering and uplifting the lives of women as well building partnership with NGOs /CBOs will be carried out at the national level. A series of advocacy activities: situational analysis, developing materials necessary for advocacy, conducting necessary training and conducting multiple means of advocacy will be the measures adopted to achieve the objectives set out for this project. This activities and results of the project will feed into the on-going SE4ALL process in Nepal including the development of the Country Action Agenda and Investment Prospectus.