



# Digital Seminar Series:

## 'Maximising the Impacts of Energy Access'

### Takeaways from Seminar 4:

### 'Inclusive Energy Planning'

This digital seminar focuses on the question how the specific aspirations and opportunities of local people can be applied in energy planning at provincial or national policy level. We talked with Gabriel Sundoro Wynn, Energy Access Lead at Green Empowerment (Malaysia) and Elizabeth Wanja, coordinator Kenya Climate Change Working Group (KCCWG). Here are our key findings from the session:

#### **On cooperation with political decision makers:**

- Understand central political motivations of mid- and high-level public servants and provide them with clear arguments about those specific aspects of inclusive energy access that align with their own motivations. Help them to do their job better, by giving them access to tools to identify least cost options, or sound information on how different energy solutions would perform.
- Understand the existing local approaches to policy and decision making and adapt your strategy in order to use those already existing procedures.

#### **On the engagement of local CSOs:**

- Build trustful partnerships with/among CSOs with long experience addressing different development areas within the target regions. Some CSOs might have solid expertise on one specific sector (energy, water, agriculture) or on a specific technology (micro-hydro, PV). Others might be stronger on community participation or on capacity development.
- Using their combined expertise and linking them to policy makers helps to make integrated energy planning successful.

#### **On inclusive debates:**

- It is essential to develop dialogue formats on local, provincial, national levels and across all sectors. Depending on the actors and levels involved different approaches are needed for ensuring that all perspectives are heard, respectfully discussed and processed.
- The panellists recommended combining different dialogue formats such as multi-stakeholder platforms, town hall meetings, public forums and participatory approaches for debating and capturing different views and interests.

#### **On the role of data analysis for informed decision making:**

- The use of geospatial tools can be very helpful. However, it is crucial to hear directly from people about their energy needs, willingness to pay, and energy expenditure.
- Understand the electricity needs of the county (data collection and modelling, assessment of current and future energy needs, identification of underlying drivers and impacts). Plan for future growth, not current demand.
- Understand which energy resources are available in the county and acknowledge the different possible routes to electrification; what are the available solutions and technologies?

#### **On community ownership and community needs:**

- It is important to know how a community is organised. What community organisations or committees already exist that should be involved in energy planning processes?
- Communities are not always aware of the importance of energy for other areas of development. Therefore, the level of awareness and expectations within communities needs to be addressed from the outset.



## Links to relevant resources:

### [Sabah Renewable Energy Rural Electrification Roadmap](#)

The Sabah Renewable Energy Rural Electrification Roadmap (SabahRE2) promotes renewables as a viable solution for energy access for communities distant from the state grid. Their website offers mini-grid tools, training videos, maps and case studies.

### [Inclusive and integrated energy planning in Kitui County, Kenya](#)

This article presents a project by IIED and partners, who are supporting the Kitui county government in Kenya to develop an integrated energy plan using a six step 'Energy Delivery Model' approach.

### [Kenya Counties Programme for Decentralised Energy Systems \(CODES\)](#)

The project aims to build the capacity of Baringo, Migori and Tana River county governments to improve electricity planning and support Kenya's goal of 100% access to electricity by 2022.

## To the digital seminar:

### [Inclusive Energy Planning – Maximising the impacts of energy access by bridging between locality of people's livelihoods and \(inter\)national-wide energy governance](#)