



## ECOWAS FACILITY FOR GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN ENERGY ACCESS

### SPECIAL FOCAL AREA

#### *Women's Economic Empowerment through Energy for Productive Uses*

**Deadline for submission: 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2020**

#### Introduction

The ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE), with the financial support of the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), is calling for submission of concept notes for grant support through the ECOWAS Facility for Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access (ECOW-GEN Facility).

Projects that get selected will be awarded grants ranging from EUR 30,000 – EUR 50,000 per project. Concept Notes must be sent to [tender@ecreee.org](mailto:tender@ecreee.org) by 30<sup>th</sup> October 2020, 23:00 hrs Cape Verde time to be considered for evaluation.

#### About the ECOW-GEN Facility

The ECOW-GEN Facility is a small grant facility which aims to provide technical and financial support to upscale the deployment of projects that simultaneously promote gender equality and improve energy access in the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) region.

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The Facility is a funding vehicle created for the specific purpose of operationalizing the ECOWAS Policy for Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access, which aims to address existing barriers to the equal participation of men and women in expanding energy access in the region.

The Facility operates through three (3) components namely:

- The ECOWAS Women's Business Fund;
- The Women's Technical Exchange program; and
- Women's Economic Empowerment through Energy for Productive Uses.

This present Call for Project Concept Notes focuses on Women's Economic Empowerment through Energy for Productive Uses **only**.

## Women Economic Empowerment through Energy for Productive Uses

The objective of the Women's Economic Empowerment through Energy for Productive Uses is to expand energy access to support rural women in agricultural businesses and, thus, contribute towards poverty alleviation, increased employment, and improved health and educational levels of rural women for the sustainable development of the ECOWAS region.

The specific objectives are to:

- Increase the productivity levels of women in agricultural practices through the increased use of renewable energy technologies;
- Build the capacities of women farmers to use and maintain clean energy technologies;
- Raise awareness and educate the public on the use of renewable energy for poverty eradication at the household level and, more broadly, for rural development.

Projects must include a component with a strategy on public education/awareness raising, targeting the general population (men, women and youth), about the social value of women's economic empowerment and gender equality.

In addition, project proposals must include components on promoting lasting results to women's entrepreneurship development through the inclusion of actions for improving functional literacy and vocational training programmes.

## Eligibility

The grant will only cover 'Investment related costs', specifically relating to purchase of energy equipment and technologies.

Applicants are encouraged to submit proposals in the following areas:

- Energy efficiency improvements;
- Lighting (green electricity);
- Electricity for powering equipment used for productive activities;
- Heat for productive activities including agricultural purposes, etc.

Requested attachments:

- Documents of past or ongoing project(s)
- Official documents (registration)

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- Annual report (with financial statement)
- Detailed Budget for proposed project
- CV of project team

## Selection Criteria

Each application will undergo a further screening to assess suitability in terms of the ECOW-GEN Facility objectives. All applications will be subjected to the following criteria which must be met:

### a) Sector or Strategic Fit:

Project is within the priority areas considered by the ECOW-GEN Facility.

### b) Development Impact:

The project improves the quality of life of the local population.

### c) Regional priority:

The authorities (e.g. government Ministries, traditional leaders, etc.) are aware and in support of the project as contributing to the country's development goals and agenda.

### d) Institutional Capacity

The project should currently have capacity or should have credible plans to add capacity towards management and project implementation.

### e) Gender responsiveness:

The project should demonstrate its gender responsiveness, specifying how the proposal was designed with intent to address gender inequalities or inequities and/or to leverage gender benefits.

## Project Priority Criteria

It is important to note that applications will also be prioritized against certain additional priority criteria, namely:

1. Project must demonstrate that the grant will be additional in contributing to women's economic empowerment by enhancing employment and self-employment opportunities for women, especially those living below the poverty line.
2. Project should be market oriented, producing services for rural and urban markets and should support the development of the local labour market and improved opportunities for employment and skills development.
3. Project proposals should describe a sustainability strategy which will ensure that the project continues to deliver benefits of poverty eradication and women's empowerment even after the grant.

4. Project proposals should demonstrate how the community will be involved from the inception to the final implementation of the project, particularly the role men will play in the project's activities. Emphasis should be placed on demonstrating how the project benefits the whole community.
5. Proposal should demonstrate practical, immediate results that the project will offer in the short term, e.g. increase in income or greater availability of resources.
6. Proposals should integrate elements aimed at facilitating the monitoring and evaluation of gender responsive results.
7. Proposals should show how the approaches and activities developed in the project are adapted to the needs of the beneficiaries, particularly women.
8. A significant proportion of the heat or electricity generated from the renewable energy technology must be dedicated to income generating activities.
9. Projects for 'women's economic empowerment through energy for productive uses' are projects that lead to an increase in women's income levels and decision making capacity.
10. Projects should have a clear management structure, including structures for the operation and maintenance of the renewable energy installation.
11. Projects should be able to be viewed and visited by others so that it acts as a true demonstration project.
12. Projects must satisfy environmental requirements and should not infringe on nature reserves.

## Sections to be filled by applicant:

### Basic information

Name of organization	
Type of Organization	
Address	
Email; website	
Telephone number(s)	
Project title	
Focus of the project	
Name of project leader/contact person	
Project duration (state date, finish date and total duration in months)	
Total budget of the project	
Estimated funding requested	

### 1. Executive summary

Provide a brief and informative summary of proposal. Include a summary of information from each of the main sections of the proposal.

### 2. Organizational history, mission and structure

Describe in brief paragraphs your organization, mission, vision and structure, as well as its record of working on energy projects and/or in other community development activities

### 3. Statement of Need

Discuss the needs or opportunities to be addressed by this project. Justifying how the project will cost-effectively supply energy services to the target population.

### 4. Overall objective(s)

Describe the long-term social and/or economic impact (benefits) to which the project will contribute, and describe why the project is important for the recipient country and for gender equality and women's economic

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empowerment. Thus, describe concisely the relevance/additionality of the grant in achieving these benefits through the project.

The overall objective is not expected to be achieved by this project alone; external factors outside the scope of the project are important for the fulfilment of the overall objectives.

## 5. Objective of the project

Describe the objective and expected outcomes, or direct effects, of the project. These are the benefits which the recipient country derives from the project. The purpose states why the project is needed by the recipient country.

## 6. Expected Results

Describe the service(s) the recipient country will receive from the project, i.e. what the project will be responsible for delivering.

Also, list the indicators of achievement, which should be verifiable and time-bound

## 7. Activities

Describe the activities that will be put in place to achieve the results. It is recommended to present them in a log frame because it will simplify the process of elaborating the work plan.

Also describe in brief the role of women in executing the activities and M&E plan.

**Insert log-framework table**

## 8. Budget

Describe resources needed to implement the project (in EURO), including co-financing contribution (in-kind or cash). Note that 100% of grant will go into supporting hardware components of the project.

**Insert budget summary table**

## 9. Implementation schedule

*Insert table with a calendar of activities.*

## 10. Risks Identification

*Provide details on expected and potential risks and mitigation strategy.*

## 11. Sustainability

*After the project implementation ends, the project can continue by itself, without external support, and the project purpose is sustainable in the long term. This pre-supposes that effective mechanisms are put in place by the recipient organization to disseminate and consolidate the results of the project.*