



***'Partners for Africa' Policy Dialogue Senegal
Dakar, Senegal, 20 – 21 April 2005***

Workshop Summary



This policy dialogue workshop was organised by ENDA, Senegal, in collaboration with ITDG, United Kingdom, in the framework of the **project PARTNERS FOR AFRICA funded by the European Commission, DG Research.**

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Workshop Objectives

This workshop brought together policy makers, researchers, programme executors and the Civil Society, to discuss and analyse various issues related to sustainable household energy and health, such as indoor air pollution, poor lighting and income generation. Important policy requirements for improved healthcare and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals have been identified and opportunities for the implementation of successful programmes and actions have been elaborated.

Background

Nearly three billion people worldwide cook and/or heat their homes with simple stoves burning traditional polluting fuels resulting in smoke. Nearly 2 billion have no access to electricity and consequently no access to improved services such as education, health, water and communication services. Additionally, the use of polluting solid fuels negatively affects the health, especially of women and children.

Participants

This workshop was attended by about 30 African and European participants from the health, energy, development and research sectors.



Topics to be discussed

- 1) Case studies of programmes, policy or actions executed or in execution related to household energy and health, as well as energy and income generation activities.
- 2) Government strategies on household energy and MDG
- 3) Research activities related to health and household energy, policy needs and ways of implementation
- 4) Discussion about future policy priorities and actions

Workshop Summary

1. Introduction

The third Partners for Africa Policy (PfA) Dialogue workshop was held at Hotel Al Afifa in Dakar, Senegal, from 20 to 22 April 2005 and included participants from 9 African and European countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, England, Germany, Italy, Senegal, Sudan, Sweden and Zambia).

For the first two days the workshop alternated between presentations and discussions, while the third and final day was set aside for a field trip. The first day was chaired by Mr. Mamadou Dianka, Coordinator of the Biomass Energy Regional Program of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA), the second by Ms. Monique Ilboudo, Burkina Faso's Minister for Human Rights, highlighting the high level of political representation at this workshop.

During the first two days, 18 presentations were made, giving an insight into the background and objectives of the Partners for Africa programme. Recent activities of Partners for Africa were presented by the consortium members ENDA, Senegal, ITDG, United Kingdom, and WIP – Renewable Energies, Germany. A summary of Senegal's national health policy was presented by Mr. Penda Cisse, Ministry of Health, and an overview of Senegal's government policy and strategy in the renewable energy sector was given by Mr. Cheikh Wade, Ministry of Energy and Mines.

2. Institutional Strategies and the Partners for Africa Programme

In his welcome address, Jean Philippe Thomas, ENDA, presented his institution's priorities and strategies, stressing the importance of energy and environment in ENDA's research portfolio and explaining the link of ENDA's activities with this third regional workshop of the Partners for Africa project.

Rainer Janssen, WIP – Renewable Energies, outlined the objectives of the European Union Energy Initiative for Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development (EUEI) and the results of the two regional PfA workshops in South Africa, June 2004, and Zambia, December 2004.

Cheikh Wade from the Senegalese Ministry of Energy and Mines officially opened the workshop and outlined the energy policy framework and the level of access to energy in Senegal. He highlighted the national strategy for developing renewable energies and eradicating poverty, which is implemented as part of the government's overall development policy in line with the principles enshrined in the Millennium Development Goals, the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP), and the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD). The overall objective for renewable energy development in Senegal is to reach 15% of the country's energy needs by 2025.

José Manuel Veiga, representative of the EU Delegation in Senegal, gave an overview on the €250 million Energy Facility from the European Union Energy Initiative (EUEI) which aims at assisting developing countries in their fight against poverty. Mr. Veiga emphasised the role which this PfA workshop can play in the development of project concepts for countries such as Benin, Burkina Faso and Senegal. He mentioned that the EU is looking for projects with a clear focus on poverty reduction and the provision of energy services using an inter-sectorial approach and taking into account the MDG.

Lacina Barro from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) explained the financial opportunities offered by UNDP in the energy sector. Financing of energy projects with a focus on poverty eradication and sustainable development can be provided by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Montreal Protocol, the Public Private Partnership for the Urban Environment, the Energy-Environment Topical Fund, the Support Fund for Local Initiative for the Urban Environment (LIFE), the Water for the Community Initiative, as well as the Equator Initiative.

Mamadou Dianka, Coordinator of the UEMOA Biomass Energy Regional Program (BERP), presented the objectives and current activities of BERP, a large programme which benefits about 70 Million people in Western Africa. The programme focuses on the strengthening of institutional capacities and the diversification of energy options in the 8 UEMOA countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire; Guinea Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Togo). Mr. Dianka thereby highlighted the enormous potential of biomass in the UEMOA region.

Finally, Sécou Sarr, ENDA, presented activities of the African Rural Energy Entrepreneurship Development Initiative (AREED) in Senegal. AREED is a successful example of a project for the promotion of renewable energies with a focus on the support of SME entrepreneurs through technical advice and financial assistance (e.g. micro-credits).

3. Health, renewable energies and access to energy for poor people

Penda Cissé, Ministry of Health, and Aïcha Fall, International Red Cross, outlined the Senegalese government's health policies and strategies and described the International Red Cross's field experience. Both stated that the link of energy and health will be of crucial importance for this workshop. Senegal's health policy is based on the National Sanitation and Social Plan (1998-2007). Its first phase was implemented alongside the Integrated Health Development Strategy (IHDS) and the second five-year phase (IHDSII) has just started. The policy objectives of IHDS and IHDSII mirror those of the Senegalese Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) and the Millennium Development Goals, the two fundamental planks of Senegal's national development policy. The energy requirements of the national health strategy and the activities of the Red Cross in Senegal were outlined. The health system's shortcomings concern health centres in rural areas, which often have no access to running water and electricity and thus can provide only basic services due to the lack of lighting, heat and cooling systems.

Ibrahima Touré from the Canah project run by the NGO CCF gave a detailed description of the impact of the use of RE on health and nutrition, especially for vulnerable groups in rural areas, notably women and children. He outlined the energy sources commonly used by the poor (fuel wood, charcoal, cow dung, lamp oil) and explained the noxious effects they are exposed to during daily tasks such as cooking and lighting. These lead to a high incidence of Acute Respiratory Infections (ARIs) via the inhalation of toxic fumes. Another major difficulty posed by the lack of access to energy is that it prevents access to drinking water, which has obvious implications for health care and income-generating opportunities.

The presentations by ITDG (Ahmed Hassan Hood, Sudan, and Liz Bates, UK) provided further accounts of the energy-health link for poor people. Access to clean fuels and improved cooking techniques can significantly enhance the health of rural women and their families and also give them the chance to launch income-generating activities. Furthermore, political dialogue in the design and implementation of policies, strategies, programmes and projects is of crucial importance for successful interventions.

4. The decisive role of policy dialogue in widening access to renewable energies, improving health care and eradicating poverty

Many presentations underlined the importance of policy dialogue – the main focus of the Partners for Africa programme and this PfA workshop in Dakar.

Salimata Wade, ENDA, described policy dialogue as an avenue that is now routinely taken as part of the implementation of ENDA's Energy and Poverty programme. Thus, Partners for Africa is much more than an ordinary programme, it is in fact a fundamental step in the execution of ENDA's strategy.

Cheikh Wade, Ministry for Energy, described how the Senegalese government strives to stimulate various RE sectors (solar photovoltaic and thermal power, biomass, wind power and micro-hydro) and strengthen the institutional and regulatory framework through a process of social and political dialogue.

The successful fuel switch in Sudan (described by Ahmed Hassan Hood, ITDG) and its positive effects on women's health (described by Liz Bates, ITDG) showed how consultation and policy dialogue involving a wide variety of actors can create a collective consciousness in poor households of the dangers of traditional domestic fuels. Stakeholders that need to be involved in renewable energy policy dialogue include women's associations, fuel sellers, government departments as well as NGOs who provide micro-credits for technologies such as improved stoves.

It has become clear from the political and social mobilisation, which took place during the implementation of the Senegalese government's national health strategy and respective Red Cross programmes, that creating arenas for meeting and exchanges is an essential aspect of sustaining policy dialogue.

The approach supported by the UNDP and the European Union requires that projects be submitted by one or several categories of actors. Furthermore, the governments, which will ultimately oversee the political framework for the implementation of projects, rank consultations and exchanges as part of the design and application process.

The project proposals from Benin, Burkina Faso and Senegal, which were presented in the framework of the PfA policy dialogue workshop in Dakar, have been designed through interaction between various institutions and communities, reflecting a multi-sectoral approach.

5. Projects for promoting renewable energies and policy dialogue

The **Senegal project**, presented by Louis Seck from the Ministry of Energy and Mines, aims to exploit the abundant local renewable energy resources while improving the living conditions and health standards of vulnerable populations in rural areas and helping to implement a national anti-poverty policy. The tangible results of this project are expected to include the electrification of 40 health centres (using photovoltaic solar power and solar water-heaters), an increased contribution of solar power to the country's installed energy capacity and the improvement of poor people's health conditions. The project aims to cater the needs in terms of lighting, cooling, heating and powering medical equipment. The estimated cost of the Senegalese project is 700 million CFA francs. Partnership and policy dialogue have been employed in all aspects of the project, including risk assessments, viability studies as well as impact studies on health, education and income-generating activities.

The **Burkina Faso project**, presented by Moussa Ouattara and Vera Diallo Ivanova from the Ministry of Mines and Energy, is based on strategies for managing water resources, notably through a drainage and irrigation project for the supply of drinking and agricultural water. In conformity with the Millennium Development Goals and the Action Plan from the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, sanitation and water access are an essential part of the national development strategy. Accordingly, water issues play an important role in Burkina Faso's Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP). The country focuses on the following main objective, namely sanitation, the economic valorisation of drinking water and the Integrated Management of Water Resources (IMWR).

The implementation strategy of the action plan includes the establishment of a steering group (consisting of representatives from central and local government, the private sector and civil society) in order to organise reviews and set-up a technical and financial support group responsible for direct contacts with the international donor community. The Action Plan for the Integrated Management of Water Resources includes the establishment of a National Water Council with the aim to increase capacities of all stakeholder groups.

The implementation of the Burkina Faso project will rely on the mobilisation of local and national resources as well as structural and investment support by external development partners.

The **Benin project**, presented by Krystel Dossou, Centre Int. d'Écodéveloppement Intégré, is dedicated to the promotion of renewable energies for the expansion of income-generating activities. The project includes a pre-electrification programme, a solar programme and more than 36 individual projects worth a total of three billion CFA francs over the next ten years. Project activities consist of processing tubers crops (manioc and tapioca), processing and conservation of fruit and vegetables, dairy product processing as well as market gardening. All activities will be mainly powered by renewable sources, i.e. solar power and micro-hydro.

6. Streamlined discussions

During several discussion sessions the following key issues were emphasised by the participants of the PfA policy dialogue workshop:

- the need to highlight energy requirements more explicitly in the PRSP (especially in the case of Burkina Faso);
- the need to harness a multi-sectoral approach to promote renewable energies and to address energy issues in general;
- the need to identify relevant and realistic indicators for measuring the implementation and effectiveness of the projects in Benin, Burkina Faso and Senegal. Reliable performance information and transparency of project results will be essential for potential international donors.
- the need for financial involvement of African countries in renewable energy projects through their national budgets. Financial involvement and ownership of the projects is crucial for mobilising donor support.
- the need to mobilise and involve large multi-sectoral energy stakeholder groups. Thereby, Benin could exploit the Senegalese experiences on setting-up multi-sectoral groups addressing energy related issues.

7. Workshop Results and Follow-up

The Partners for Africa Dakar workshop facilitated an international dialogue that led to conclusions and recommendations as well as the adoption of a joint methodology and agenda. This was achieved thanks to the concrete findings of the three national renewable energy projects that aimed to increase access to healthcare (Senegal) and water (Burkina Faso) and to stimulate income-generating activities (Benin).

The members of the country teams agreed to complete their documents within two weeks after the workshop and submit revised project concepts to ENDA.

The Partners for Africa consortium offered its support for the promotion of the country projects at international funding bodies including the EU Energy Initiative (EUEI).

8. Field trip

The field trip on 22 April 2005 visited Montrolland, located about 20 km from Thiès, the country's second largest city after Dakar. The group was guided by Michel Seck, who is the head of the association that produces windmills for water pumping. The group visited the windmill production and maintenance site as well as a field where the windmill pumps water into an irrigation storage basin. Some 10,000 US\$ have been invested in this operation, which provides water for market gardening (mainly tomato plants during the production season). Women from the local community are employed and paid for harvesting the tomatoes thereby contributing to the income of rural families.



The PARTNERS FOR AFRICA consortium

In this action, the consortium has a high level of expertise and high quality contacts in Sub-Saharan Africa and Europe at its disposal. The consortium comprises 6 actors, active in the renewable energy and international development fields. 3 of these are of European, and 3 of African origin. The 3 European members of the consortium are:

- WIP-ETA Consortium (WEC), Germany/Italy. (*Co-ordinator*)
- ITDG, UK
- SEI, Sweden

These players lend particular strength to this project through their experience in the coordination of the global energy and development networks:

- LAMNET (www.bioenergy-lamnet.org)
- CARENSA (www.carensa.net)
- Sparknet (www.sparknet.info)

These networks deal with local, national and international energy and development issues. These interdisciplinary networks support international dialogue and action fora, bringing together key actors and stakeholders from the energy, biomass and development sectors.

The African consortium members are highly experienced and have an established reputation in the fields of renewable energy and development from a wide range of past projects and collaborations. They are:

- Illovo Sugar, South Africa
- ENDA, Senegal
- CEEEZ, Zambia



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