

access

**Alliance of Civil Society
Organisations for
Clean Energy Access**

CSO ENGAGEMENT ROUNDTABLE TO SUPPORT NATIONAL & SUB-NATIONAL PROGRESS TOWARDS SDG 7 (ELECTRIFICATION AND CLEAN COOKING)

**18-19th November 2019, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya
POST-EVENT SUMMARY REPORT**



Supported by Sustainable Energy for ALL



FOREWORD

The global community is not on track to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG7) on ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all by 2030 - as evidenced by Tracking SDG7: The Energy Progress Report 2019. Kenya has set ambitious targets for universal access to energy by 2030 as highlighted in its SEforALL Action Agenda - the key energy planning document for the country until 2030, and the recently enacted Energy Act of 2019. The country has made great strides to meet these targets; currently, 75% of Kenyans have access to electricity with the number of households connected increasing gradually since 2018. According to Kenya's Clean Cooking Study 2019, 75% of Kenyan households still use charcoal and fuel wood as their primary cooking fuel and about 58% of the households use unimproved cooking technologies. With less than a decade left until 2030, a lot needs to be done in order to achieve 100% universal access. Understanding what is working, where and why, and focusing closely on where and why we are failing, has been a driving force for SEforALL and ACCESS Coalition.

Leveraging the Kenyan Energy Act enacted in 2019, the workshop was a step forward in fostering inclusive energy planning and decision-making participation in the Kenyan energy sector. It brought together civil society – both energy and non-energy CSOs, national and sub-national leaders, in a two-day event to (a) Discuss priority areas for effective national and county-level implementation of an inclusive, integrated vision of energy access spanning grid and off-grid electricity and clean cooking; (b) Develop a shared understanding of the Energy Act of 2019, its mandates and opportunities for CSOs to support its implementation and (c) Develop a shared understanding of the current energy access landscape in Kenya.

Participants deliberated on nexus initiatives and processes where energy access is an enabler, and most importantly how to support capacity-building efforts at the national and county level on energy access and integration into cross-sectoral development planning. An analysis of the Energy Act by ACCESS Coalition to identify entry points for CSOs influencing was presented to steer the discussions. This was also complemented by a presentation on the roadmap for operationalization of the Act, presented by the Ministry of Energy.

On behalf of the ACCESS Secretariat, we would like to particularly thank SEforALL for the financial and technical support. We'd also like to thank all our partners in Kenya who were critical to the success of the workshop. This paper offers a summary of the deliberations during the workshop. We hope that some of the findings will be relevant to other energy stakeholders beyond Kenya and that it adds to the much-needed conversation about what it takes to edge us closer towards the realization of SDG 7 and ensuring that no one is left behind.

We encourage stakeholders in the energy sector to review the actions proposed carefully. Executing them will require commitments from all of us. We hope you will be inspired and that you will leverage your resources and capacity to take them forward!

**Jacqueline Kimeu,
International Coordinator
ACCESS Coalition**

KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. Implementation of the Energy Act - The Energy Act of 2019 has the potential to shift the paradigm only if all of the sector players form partnerships geared towards financing, implementation and proper legislative processes that factor in the energy-poor.
2. Sensitizing counties on the Energy Act and County Energy Planning Framework - Action for achieving SDG 7 lies at the county level. Counties and related institutions in the energy sector need to be strengthened in an effort to meet the country's SDG 7 targets. One of the immediate actions is to sensitize the county governments on the Energy Act of 2019, this includes building their understanding of the County Energy Planning Framework developed with support from GIZ.
3. County Energy committees - The draft County Energy Planning framework proposes the formation of County Energy Committee comprised of county government officials, CSOs, private sector, government agencies and community officials to provide high level leadership in county energy planning. CSOs need to seize this opportunity to build the capacity of the committees on matters energy planning.
4. Inter-ministerial Planning on energy - Inter-ministerial coordination and planning are key in advancing the achievement of SDG 7. Nexus ministries and CSOs must be brought into the conversation; the proposed inter-ministerial committee in the SEforALL Action Agenda should be institutionalized. A lot can be borrowed from the active clean cooking inter-ministerial committee.
5. Budget allocations - Civil Society Organizations have a role to play in lobbying county and national governments to allocate budgets for implementation of the Energy Act and prioritization of energy issues. SEforALL is committed and willing to work with the government of Kenya and key stakeholders to accelerate the achievement of SDG 7.
6. Energy centers as platforms for innovation - There is need to shape the outlook of the current energy centers and have a standardized model of establishing the centres. The centres should be re-engineered to become hubs of relevant technology training and capacity building locally – e.g. geothermal and wind in relevant regions where there's generation. Local communities can be engaged around applications for industry (such as direct heat for greenhouses) or mini grids and/or Solar Home Systems (SHS), in remote regions where populations are nomadic. CSOs can support REREC (Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Corporation) in carrying out the mandate.
7. County Energy Funds - Civil Society Organizations should endeavor to understand the budget processes in the counties and sensitize stakeholders at the county level on how to influence budget choices and hold office bearers to account. There needs to be more structured public engagement on the disbursement of county energy funds.
8. Data - Data on energy access progress is lacking in the country, there is need to develop Monitoring and Evaluation targets for the energy sector. Existing plans and initiatives should be evaluated. How should the multi-tier framework be adopted at the local level?
9. Launch of Kenya's SEforALL website - CSOs should look for innovative ways of supporting the Ministry of Energy in launching the SEforALL website – perhaps identifying resources needed to build it, or partner/staff support to maintain and update it over time. Once launched, the website will ensure sector players have a common reference to track progress and updates as well as provide key information on energy issues.
10. SDG 7 champions at the county level - Partnerships between CSOs and government to advance and support initiatives at the local level are critical. Energy stakeholders should identify SDG 7 champions and advocates from the community level so as to strengthen on-the-ground evidence on what's working and what's not.
11. Integrated planning - CSOs should evaluate counties' integrated development plans and take stock of the energy needs and priorities of the citizens within the various counties. This should not only focus on electricity but also integrate clean cooking considering the options for affordability and ending energy poverty.
12. The Energy Access Explorer developed by WRI (World Resources Institute), is an important tool for stakeholders to hold the government accountable to the priorities of its citizens.

TOP QUOTES

“ Ministry of Energy in Kenya already has the right instruments in place, partnership with government and CSOs needs to happen within the provision of the frameworks provided. The law provides for the modalities of engagement. CSOs need to identify these openings and keep updated on what is happening at the national level. ”

Paul Mbuti, Assistant Director, Renewable Energy Directorate, Ministry of Energy

“ Technical capacity targeting the people to be served is key as this will ensure their needs and priorities are considered during the energy planning processes. ”

Faith Odongo, Senior Deputy Director of Renewable Energy, Ministry of Energy

NEXT STEPS

ACESS Coalition is currently working with Kenya Climate Change working group (KCCWG) - the regional coordinating node for the coalition in East Africa; to develop an advocacy strategy for the region. The strategy prioritizes some of the actions highlighted above as key activities that KCCWG will advocate for in collaboration with Sustainable Energy Access forum -Kenya (SEAF-K), and other stakeholders in the country. Some of the key actions prioritized in the strategy include; a) creating awareness on the Energy Act across the counties, b) building the capacity of the SEforALL inter-ministerial committee and secretariat c) establishing

county intergovernmental forums for proper coordination of CSO activities and initiating SDG 7 champions at the counties d) building capacity of CSOs on government budgeting processes e) establishing county SEforALL committees to support county energy planning. The Energy Act Analysis will be widely circulated to inform CSOs on the potential entry points to influence implementation of the Act. ACCESS will also partner with World Resources Institute (WRI) to carry out a governance analysis of the Energy Act and equip CSOs with skill sets on how to advocate for and hold government accountable in its actions towards the provision of energy.