FINAL REPORT

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION INTERVENTION

PURPOSE

The final report is the Danish organisation's report to the Civil Society Fund. Therefore, the intention is that the Danish organisation fills in the report in cooperation with the local partner and uses it as an opportunity to reflect on the impact of the intervention.

The final report can be used as a tool in your partnership to enhance transparency and joint responsibility as described in CISU's thematic paper on *partnerships*, which is available at CISU's website: https://cisu.dk/temapapirer

The final report will be added to the Danish organisation's track record and will be taken into account in future assessments of applications from the Danish organisation involving the same or other partners in line with the Guidelines for the Civil Society Fund.

External evaluation: in the case of interventions with a total budget over DKK 2 million, the external evaluation report must be attached, unless it has already been forwarded to CISU.

The report can be supplemented by images, videos, documents, screen dumps from social media or other materials produced during the implementation that can be sent to puljer@cisu.dk together with the final report.

CISU aims to send feedback on the report to the Danish organisation no later than two months after receiving the report.

The report must not exceed 6 pages (this cover page is not included).

Danish applicant organisation	DIB		
Intervention title	Strengthening the Eco-Village Development concept: Affordable local climate actions for sustainable development in South Asia		
Contact person's name	Lykke Valentin		
Contact person's email address	evd-sa@dib.dk		
Reference number	19-2416-MI-aug		
Country(-ies)	Bangladesh, Nepal, India and Sri Lanka		
Period of the intervention	16. september 2019 – 16. juli 2020		
Total budget	499.925 DKK	Actual expenditure	500.862 DKK

15/3/2021
Date

Lykke Valentin
Person responsible (signature)

Lykke Valentin, project manager DIB
Person responsible (in capital letters)

1. Outcomes and strategy

1.1 Describe whether each of the objectives have been achieved and assess the extent to which the strategy has led to the expected outcomes and objectives as originally set out in the application.

Achievement of the intervention objective: *To strengthen the Eco-Village Development (EVD) concept to be ready for further upscaling in South Asia. This will be realised by building capacities of partners and networks to scale up the concept, including new climate zones, and by testing new structures for further upscaling (as social enterprises).*
Overall, the intervention achieved the objective of strengthening the concept, through the development of the feasibility studies, the organisational mapping exercises, through the consultations with NGOs, villagers and stakeholders, the work on developing the social enterprise model (SEM) and the work on developing a joint set of indicators of the EVD-Model village which was initiated at the joint meeting in Delhi. In addition to the planned activities and results, we tapped into the opportunity of sharing our work and experiences with local climate solutions at international level, both the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP25 in December 2019 and UN High Level Political Forum (UN HLPF) on Sustainable Development in July 2020. This added to strengthening and expanding the network of the partners across boarders, and sparking the interest in the EVD concept in regions we would not have been able to reach.

Specific objective 1: At the end of the project four new climate zones and their relevant stakeholders are ready for EVD implementation. All four national partners have developed a feasibility study for introducing the EVD concept into a new climate zone, Marine Rural Municipality in Nepal, the sub-district Mathbaria in Bangladesh, Matara District in Sri Lanka, and for Margul Panchayat, Ratlam District, India. All of the studies showed a potential for further implementation of the EVD concept. In addition, CANSA has been working on District Climate Resilience Plan (DCRP) for Barwani District, Madhya Pradesh. The basket of EVD solutions are regarded as potential adaptation solutions for the identified climate related vulnerabilities. CANSA expects the DCRP to be done in 2021.
For all partners mapping exercises were done to identify relevant and interested stakeholders and NGOs working in the areas also outside the renewable energy sector for broader scope of involvement and inclusion. Stakeholder meetings, consultations and workshops were carried out to validate and present findings, and to build their awareness and capacity of the EVD concept for further collaboration. All partners have teamed up with local organisations working in the areas to do the study, and to have the local presence and access to the local communities and stakeholders. Most of the data and information for the feasibility studies were collected before COVID-19 restrictions were imposed, however it challenged the strengthening of connections and linkages, as physical meetings and visits to the areas were in fact not possible after March 2020. The partners tried to mitigate this obstacle by reaching out via phone, whatsapp and by conducting online meetings, consultations and even a webinar, however the preparations for taking the next steps were hampered a bit by this. Overall this objective is assessed to be very highly achieved.

Specific objective 2: At the end of the project it has been established if and how a model for social enterprise on EVD could look like. Grameen Shakti, Bangladesh developed the theoretical Social Enterprise model of an EVD solution, the biogas plant, based on their experience with a successful SEM, the Solar Home System Program in Bangladesh. All partners discussed the draft model during our joint meeting in Delhi, and Grameen Shakti finalized the model. While developing the model, we leant that to develop a full proof model, field trial of the model is crucial which we didn't execute due to time limitation and resource constraint in this project. This learning was included into the new project "*Next generation low carbon,*

climate resilient Eco-Village Development in South Asia" (20-2550-UI-mar) where the SEM model will be further developed. This objective is assessed to be highly achieved.

Specific objective 3: At the end of the project, partners are ready to scale-up activities together
The third objective comprises the work done in the entire project. The partners have strengthened their capacities to scale-up EVD activities, using local and national civil society networks as well as using each other in a regional network. In preparation of the feasibility studies in the four new climate zones, relevant stakeholders and villages have been consulted and later prepared for implementation of EVD, as the concept proved feasible for replication. The organisational mapping activities carried out was to expand the resource base of engaged partner organisations, and to receive feedback to the concept and to further strengthen it. The work on the social enterprise model was to expand our joint knowledge and way forward for further development of the social business side of the concept, and to make the concept scalable without donor funding. All of this information was collected, discussed and further developed in our joint meeting in Delhi in February 2020. The development of agreed indicators of a EVD model village was also initiated, as this has been something stakeholders have requested for some time.
The participation at UN COP25 (Dec. '19), UN HLPF (July '20), and publishing Sustainable Energy News (Dec. '19) contributed to an outreach, which was not anticipated at the design of the project, and it provided an opportunity to showcase and present our progress on the EVD and local solutions for an international audience.
Having 6 partners and working in four different countries the context, needs and outreach-strategies are different and also leaving the partners at different stages at preparedness to scale up activities (and difficult to summarize in limited space), but thorough preparations have been done, and the partners got a new project approved in May 2020 (20-2550-UI-mar) to carry on the work. This objective is assessed to be highly achieved.
The strategy described in the project document is assessed to a large extent to have led to the expected results and objectives, even though COVID-19 and the imposed restrictions did challenge the work from March and onwards.

1.2 For each of your objectives, write in the table below how close you are to fulfilling the objectives (in percent).

	Achievement in %
Achievement of overall objective:	75%
Achievement of Objective 1	80%
Achievement of Objective 2	70%
Achievement of Objective 3	75%

0-19 %: very low achievement
20-39 %: low achievement
40-59%: medium achievement
60-79%: high achievement
80-100%: very high achievement

1.3 Describe the main challenges faced during the implementation and what adjustments you have made to mitigate these challenges.

In 2020, the COVID-19 became a major challenge that delayed the project and most partners needed reorganising their field activities, and their interaction strategy with community leaders, key stakeholders etc . The restriction in travel and mass gathering forced the partners to reduce travel, rely more on already established contacts in the selected areas and to do the outreach via phone, whatsapp and conduct the previously planned physical meetings and seminars to be online instead. In Bangladesh and Nepal they conducted online webinars and stakeholder consultations online which is something that has not been tried before.

1.4 Summarise (in no more than 10 lines) what difference the intervention has made. For example, the most important changes that have occurred as result(s) of the intervention.

Partners have gained experience in analysing the feasibility of EVD on new areas, including building contacts and networks and collecting information in new areas. This process helped to identify the needs and problems within the areas, and build mutual understanding with various stakeholders and created acknowledgement with local officials. The project has proven that EVD is feasibility in new areas and has given insights in how to adapt the selection of local development solutions to new areas, and also where we need to further strengthen the basket of solutions. It has also given scope to envisage possible funding sources for which the local government can be approached for collaboration. The initiation and development of the Social Enterprise Model (SEM) was also a major breakthrough in this intervention. The SEM will facilitate replication at the grass root level, offering value to every stakeholder of the model of the solution, opening up a huge scope of expansion through a sustainable model, adding permanent value.

2. The target group

2.1 Describe how the intervention has contributed to bringing about improvements for the target groups.

This intervention did not carry any implementation of solutions or activities targeting local communities, nevertheless the feasibility study provided many insights as to how and what implementation best suits the region of study in future activities. E.g. IDEA from **Sri Lanka** were able to build awareness of relevant stakeholders for the region (NGOs/CBOs/Government organizations) on climate change, its impacts and EVD as a solution to strengthen rural lives, while receiving their inputs and feedback based on their expertise and experiences working in the said region, as inputs for the feasibility study. **In Nepal** CRT/N was able to build the capacity of key stakeholders responsible to formulate development plans and programs at local level, where the normal perception of local development is to prioritize infrastructure development. This training did contribute to trigger change in their perception regarding sustainable development to some extent. **In Bangladesh** the feasibility study created a window of communication between the challenged area of the coastal region and EVD solutions. With the help of the study the need and major necessities of the area is assessed more accurately. In that area, people have been facing many climate challenges on a daily basis. It has become so normal to them that they are not aware of the technologies that have the potential to improve their living standard and livelihood. As a result of the intervention, a good portion of local people and authorities are aware that by implementing some tools their problems can be tackled. This understanding will allow them to be more helpful and positive about using and adapting with the EVD solutions. **In India**, 11 NGO partners have developed understanding on the EVD concept and are prepared to propagate the EVD solutions in their project villages, and The coming District Climate Resilience Plan developed for Barwani provides a clear framework for the policy practitioners to follow in dealing with climate issues in the districts. Since it identifies priorities and actions in critical sectors, it serves as a ready reckoning for district planners. **Internationally,** the INFORSE led participation at two UN events (COP25, UN HLPF), the publishing of one Sustainable Energy News focusing on local solutions, and the outreach via social media for the project related activities reached target groups of climate negotiators, decision makers, and other civil society organisations.
Lastly, IDEA, Grameen Shakti and INSEDA provided COVID-19 assistance to a smaller group of people, as we had a bit left on the budget margin to use. Grameen Shakti ensured two months' food for 20 families, IDEA provided protective gear for Health staff of Matale General hospital, and INSEDA through its partner NGO, the New Life Center (NLC) distributed 1000 masks and soaps to the communities in Margul Panchayat, Ratlam District, Madhya Pradesh. NLC also created awareness among communities for prevention of spread of virus and precautions to be taken to avoid getting infected by COVID-19 virus. NLC also explained

to the communities various natural ways to improve immunity against coronavirus. All of this was done for approximately 10.000 DKK.

2.2 How many persons have been reached by this intervention?

	Number of persons
Number of persons that have **participated** in intervention's activities (primary target group)	1.319*
Number of persons **affected** by the intervention's activities without having participated in the activities (secondary target group)	73.562*

*) The breakdown of the numbers can be given upon request.

3. The partnership

3.1 Reflect on to what extent the intervention has strengthened your partnership and created mutual gains for the participating partners. You are welcome to provide specific examples.

This intervention has provided a needed platform to collectively stop and reflect on the learnings during the last two projects, to have time to investigate the replicability to other areas, to discuss the ways to take the concept further and strengthen it, with the aim of getting more actors and stakeholders engaged in replicating or funding EVD expansion, creating lasting improvements for the rural populations. The existing partnership with different capacities and experiences was helpful to conduct the different activities. For developing the questionnaires for the feasibility study and introducing the KoboToolbox as a data-gathering instrument several partners collaborated to enhance the result. For the social enterprise model, Grameen Shakti was lead as they have prior experience with establishing a business model for renewable technologies, like the solar home system. We have experienced our partner consortium to be valuable in terms of exchanging knowledge, experiences and continuing to add extra layers to the EVD approach and also the collaboration. Since 2015 the partners have been working together on three projects, and the joint built-up knowledge, experiences and learnings are really starting to show. The joint partner meeting in Delhi in February 2020 underlined this development where all partners participated on equal footing and contributed to the discussions, and decided on the way forward. It was clear that there had been a gradual shift in ownership, as all partners had used the intervention to internalize the EVD concept, and all want to take it further and continue to develop it. For comparison, the final meeting for the second project (16-1891-LI-sep) in 2018 we were all unsure, in which direction we should go with the concept and partnership, as all organizations were more or less pulling in different directions. This intervention provided the opportunity for each partner organization to analyse and discuss the potential of the concept in their settings and helped the partnership in finding a common ground and way forward.

Furthermore, the cooperation on the side events at the UNFCCC COP25, and the virtual UN HLPF strengthened existing partnerships within INFORSE network in South Asia and East Africa with mutual gains of enlarging visibility. The partners financed their participation in these events, but used the opportunities to promote and showcase the results from the current and previous engagement. Additionally, at UN HLPF, the INFORSE led participation was also a result of acting closely together with 10 INFORSE members, particularly with those, which are also accredited to UN ECOSOC: Solar Cookers International, Grameen Shakti, and All India Women Conference focusing on gender issues.

3.2 Describe how the intervention has contributed to the partners building relations with other actors.

The intervention has contributed largely to relationship building with other actors for all partners involved. This has been on local, sub-national, national and international level with a wide range of actors. Some examples are given below:

For **CANSA**, the intervention assisted in cementing ties with the government at state and district level in their work on the District Climate Resilience Plan (DCRP) for Barwani District. Through the nodal organisation (EPCO), the project could reach the administrative units and the policy implementation set up of the district. The intervention has created opportunities of mutual learning during group discussions, village meetings and one to one conversations.

For **Grameen Shakti**, the intervention gave opportunity to reach out to NGOs and Government offices who work in the similar field of development in Mathbaria. The field experience of these organizations guided us to select the proper villages and key informants. The local government and NGO's were very cooperative towards the future prospect of working together in the development of the coastal area and willingly contributed in the intervention with their resources and knowledge. The interaction with them helped to communicate the EVD activities with them and to build a promising relationship.

For **CRT/N**, the organisational mapping activities helped identify possible partners to collaborate with and discover mutual benefits of a future collaboration. In particular one organisation seemed fit, both due to a strong presence in the community and their ability to coordinate with local line agencies (government/non-government) but also their experiences with the identified issues such as access to water uncovered by the feasibility study. In the previous projects there has not been too much focus on WASH components, thus this new collaboration and mutual sharing of knowledge will help strengthen the EVD concept further.

For **IDEA**, the intervention gave them the opportunity to bring together a wide set of stakeholders in Matara district, NGOs and government development officials and institution, to present and discuss the topic of climate change, Eco-Village Development and activities/solutions, and also to give feedback through a structural survey form to provide stakeholder inputs for the feasibility study- including their contact information which IDEA took use of to take further inputs over the phone/email/whatsapp accordingly. While this event was quite beneficial for brainstorming on climate effects and appropriate solutions for Matara and validating the feasibility study, it also served as a platform for local practitioners and the other participants to give feedback, link up with other organizations and institutions accordingly.

For **INSEDA** the linkages have been developed or strengthened with government departments such as:

- Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA) - assistance is being provided in organic farming to the farmers
- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) – which can help in creating access of farmers/ SHGs for financial assistance
- Horticulture and Forest Department – they have saplings available at reasonable cost and can provide valuable guidance in tree plantation in the project villages.

For INFORSE and all partners, the international level participation at the side event and exhibition at the UNFCCC COP25, and at the UN HLPF both contributed to enlarged visibility by other actors and building relations with them. One of the results was that at the UN HLPF we could build relations on actors on UN Sustainable Development Goals. It was the first time that INFORSE and the partners were accepted to organise a side event and exhibition at a UNHLPF conference, which was a result of INFORSE building extended relations on UN ECOSOC level.

4. Monitoring, evaluation, and learning

4.1 How have experiences and results been gathered and used during implementation and how can these assist in improving future interventions?

Kobo Toolbox was used as a platform for developing the questionnaires for the feasibility studies, as a database for the collected answers and for data compilation. The partners have different experiences using the tool, as it requires some technical skills to set up and use and time to get familiar with, which was not considered while developing the project application. It saved some of the partners a lot of time in data coding, data validation and data analysis, but we are still to experience the full benefit of a digital platform, but the partners are positive towards using it again, plus the data is online and available to use in our further engagements in the different areas (e.g. as baseline information).

The partners conducted detailed surveys from the selected areas including relevant stakeholders, and compiled all the data to four feasibility studies and a DCRP for Barwani (will be finalized in 2021). In the case of Bangladesh, the feasibility study assessed the viability of different EVD solutions in the coastal region of Bangladesh. A detailed report was prepared where all the facts and figures of different climate change mitigation and adaptation technologies have been chalked out. The findings of the feasibility studies have been and will continue to be shared with broader audiences who are interested to work in the coastal belt with similar technologies. This study can guide not only us, but also them to adopt proper strategy and measures to efficiently execute different activities. The same holds true for the other reports developed of other areas. The data collected was used by partners to develop the project proposal, which was approved in May 2020. The partners will implement priority EVD solutions in the selected areas in the current project (20-2550-UI-mar). After the launch of the feasibility reports, some African INFORSE members requested further information on the EVD solutions and they are considering using it.

4.2 Which tools or methods have been used for monitoring and/or capacity building, if any?

	Tools and methods
	Mango Health Check
	Accountability Dialogue Tool
X	Kobo Toolbox for developing surveys, data gathering and data compilation
X	Mango for financial reports from partners

5. Information work in Denmark

N/A

6. Follow-up

No monitoring visit was conducted from CISU's side, no advice was given at the time of the approval of the application and all partners did comply with CISU's financial standards at the time of the submission of the application and throughout the project.

7. Other observations or reflections

N/A