

FINAL REPORT

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION INTERVENTION

The final report is the Danish organisation and its partners reporting to CISU. It is expected that the report is developed in close collaboration between the Danish organisation and local partner(s), and use it as an opportunity to reflect on the results of the intervention together.

The final report will be a part of the Danish organisation's track record with CISU. The report is therefore significant to future assessments of applications from the Danish organisations with the same or other partners.

The report is uploaded into 'Vores CISU' through the milestone *final report* under the grant no longer than 3 months after the end date of the intervention.

Before the report is uploaded, you will also need to answer the following questions in 'Vores CISU':

- Overall, have you achieved what you wanted with the intervention? (Selection from a drop-down list)
- Number of persons who have participated in activities
- Number of persons who have been affected by the interventions' activities (besides the persons who have participated directly)

CISU strives to send a response to the report to the Danish organisation no longer than two months after receiving the report. The content of the report will also be used for CISU's own reporting and communication of results related to the Civil Society Fund.

All text in *italics* is text to help you develop the report and can be deleted before uploading the report.

The report must not exceed 7 pages (excluding this frontpage). The tables in the report take up approx. one page.

Danish grantee(s)	DIB		
Partner organisation(s)	Centro REDES, ENDA Energie, INFORSE, INSEDA, TaTEDO,		
Title of the intervention	Synergies across the continents - strengthening CSOs in climate action and reducing poverty with local, sustainable solutions		
Name and email of contact person	Lykke Valentin, dib@dib.dk		
Reference number	21-3688-CSP-MI		
Country(ies)	Argentina, India, Senegal, Tanzania		
Period of the intervention	01.12.2021 - 30.08.2023		
Total budget	Kr. 499.986,00	Actual expenditure	Not available yet

31th December 2023

Date



Person responsible (signature)

Lykke Valentin

Person responsible (in capital letters)

1. Overall results

1.1 Summarise (in max. 10 lines) what changes the intervention has contributed to.

The project has for the first time given the opportunity to collect and prioritise the most important local solutions for energy access and use in sustainable ways across continents. Furthermore civil society knowledge on local solutions and capacity to advocate for supportive policies have improved. This was achieved through training, experiences and information sharing among CSOs, policy and decision makers on successful local solutions and policies to promote them. It involved both virtual and physical meetings, presentations, publications, exhibitions, policy briefs and use of media. Some of the technologies and policy recommendations provided have been integrated into the recently developed strategies and plans of the energy sector of **Tanzania**, potentially benefiting more than 63 million people. In the Western Africa and particularly in **Senegal** it has supported the mobilization of civil society organizations and raised their interest in the possible contribution of local solutions to energy transition. In **Argentina** the youth climate movement agenda has been mobilised, and now includes local solutions and community energy in their narrative. In **South Asia** two network members developed advocacy plans for clean cooking and solar dryers in India and Bangladesh respectively.

It has strengthened the INFORSE network of civil society organisations with new cooperation among members and has involved a number of members and other CSOs working for energy access with sustainable energy. The project has also given renewed cooperation among the coordinators. Descriptions of the local solutions and policies have been collected and produced and they will be available online in the years to come.

1.2 Describe the results achieved for each of the intervention's outcomes (objectives or goals). Use your indicators as a basis for the description.

Objective 1: Strengthening the capacity of CSOs in dissemination local sustainable energy solutions

Indicator: The training materials are used by at least 500 CSO persons via project webinars and by their own study of the activities downloaded from the partners' websites.

The capacity of CSOs working for local sustainable energy solutions in East Africa (Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya) West Africa (Senegal, Benin and Mali), South Asia (India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka) and Latin America (Argentina, Mexico, Costa Rica, Peru, Chile) has been enhanced through training and information exchange on successful local energy solution technologies and policies among CSOs. This was undertaken within the country and across regions and continents where INFORSE has members.

The implementation of the project took place during a period when a lot of attention started to be given to energy transition and its challenges for developing countries that are already struggling against poverty. The intervention has contributed to raise interest in this thematic, particularly in how local communities can use local affordable energy solutions to contribute to the fight against climate change as well as the reduction of poverty.

A 92-pages publication of the best practices of 12 local sustainable energy and climate solutions from South Asia, Latin America, East Africa, West Africa, and Europe has been collected and published by the partners. Training materials in promotion of these local solutions were also collected and compiled for strengthening the capacities of CSOs¹. The material was followed by a series of regional webinars and online training sessions, and a few joint webinars organised for CSOs in the INFORSE network. The participants learned about the local solutions and related policies, which they could use in their advocacy work at local and

¹ https://inforse.org/doc/PUB_Local_Sustainable_Energy_Solutions_and_Policies_INFORSE_Synergies.pdf

national level. The webinars also gave opportunity for members and participants to share their experiences both in their region, but also across continents.

During the webinars, the participating CSOs have expressed their interest in the project and its focus on local sustainability. Also the link made with energy transition which is at the top of the climate agenda these days because of the Conference of the Parties and the importance that it is given for the fight against climate change and its adverse effects. The participating organizations have shown their interest since the project is proposing an unusual approach based on local solutions to address this issue of energy transition. The usual narrative on energy transition focuses more on the industrial dimension of energy use. However, this project and the identified solutions is showing a more inclusive language is possible when taking into account local knowledge and affordable technologies that can also play an important role for a just energy transition and takes into account the local dimension.

In **Latin America** (LA), our partner Centro REDES also developed an INFORSE LA website, a podcast² about local solutions and a knowledge bank³ as requested by Cirilo Espain. He is a mechanical engineer, co-founder of the first Solar Community in the city of Tandil (Buenos Aires, Argentina). The idea of creating this knowledge bank is to have a repository of information on local solutions, specifically concentrated on sustainable energy, since it hasn't been developed before. The knowledge bank is still a work in progress, which Centro REDES has committed themselves to finalize even after the project has ended.

The publication was made available on 30th of August, 2023, and according to the statistics from INFORSE's website, the training material had been downloaded 400 times by the end of October, and the webpage had more than 15.000 visitors already. In total +300 webinar participants and 400 online users have received the training material. Furthermore, INFORSE published a 1-page article on the training material in Sustainable Energy News, November 2022, which was downloaded by 1000 people and distributed in 1200 paper copies to organisations worldwide. The publication has been translated to Spanish, Portuguese and French, which are also available online.

Objective 2: Strengthening the ability of CSOs to promote sustainable energy and local solutions for inclusion in national, state/district, and local level climate and development plans.

Indicator: In at least 10 countries, CSOs have increased their priority and activities on local sustainable energy solutions (advocacy and dissemination of solutions activities combined).

The ability of CSOs to promote sustainable energy and local solutions for inclusion in national and local level climate and development plans has been strengthened.

Examples of advocacy policies have been identified and collected and training webinars have been organised. For **West Africa**, on average, around 25 to 30 participants have attended each of the five webinars, including the two regional webinars. The third webinar gathered up to 60 participants. The interest in the project is shown here through the high number of CSO representatives that showed up during the 3rd webinar that focused on purpose on "Just Energy Transition in Africa: What policies and strategies for the promotion of local energy solutions?" They all claimed the training material to be sent to them. The West Africa regional webinars were in French, and one of the global webinars was facilitated with English/French translation.

In East Africa, **Tanzania**, the timing of the project has been on point, as sustainable energy solutions including clean cooking, have become one of the priority agendas at national level unlike before. Two advocacy plans were developed, and an unexpected positive result of this intervention has been that some of the technologies and policy recommendations provided to policy and decision makers have been

² <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gusXPlwqhFo&t=61s>

³ <https://bancodeconomiento.blogspot.com/>

integrated into the recently developed strategies and plans for the energy sector of Tanzania. For instance the Tanzania National Charcoal Strategy and Action Plan (2021-2031) of 2022, some of its objectives include i) to enhance sustainable charcoal production and utilisation (among which promote use of improved charcoal production kilns and improved wood fuel stoves); ii) enhance production and use of alternative charcoal (including production of briquettes from organic waste); and iii) enhance adoption of alternative cooking energy (including promotion of efficient electric cooking appliances such as pressure cooker). Also, the Implementation Strategy for the Tanzania National Clean Cooking Vision (2023 - 2033) of 2023, among others has the objective to ensure accessibility of clean, affordable, sustainable and reliable cooking solutions and the target to reduce taxes and fees imposed on clean cooking energy, appliances and efficient stoves by June, 2025 of which was one of the policy recommendations suggested during the project implementation. As mentioned in the summary section, this has a potential of benefiting more than 63 millions of people, however as we are still to see the implementation of these strategies and plans, we have decided **not** to include it into the calculated table of people reached.

In the latter part of the project, we also supported INFORSE members in **Uganda** to plan and carry out advocacy activities and a SoMe campaign targeting the *Women deliver Conference* held in Kigali, Rwanda in July 2023; the Kampala SDGs Festival August 2023, the Africa Climate Summit and Week 2023 in Nairobi, the UNHLPF, Uganda regional SDG meetings, Eid al-Adha, etc. They also developed a members' statement to the Africa Climate Summit & Week, which took place 4-8th September 2023 in Nairobi, which had 10 NGOs signing it.

In Kenya, the training contributed to Suswatch's - an INFORSE member - advocacy work both at national and local governmental level in the city of Kisumu. The advocacy work has got good results, as the promoted solutions became part of the national and county level (Kisumu) policy. Suswatch also secured the participation of representatives of local government and ministry from Kenya in the final regional webinar for East Africa.

In South Asia, two online training sessions of CSOs were organised focusing on how to advocate for the solutions in national plans, and two CSOs carried out exercises between the webinars. They developed advocacy materials on solar dryers by Mitraniketan in India and on clean cooking by Participatory Development Action Program (PDAP) in Bangladesh for advocacy for inclusion of local solutions in national climate plans including NDCs. The Advocacy materials were shared with the wider audience. The advocacy material prepared by Mitraniketan is being shared by Krishi Vigyan Kendra (Agriculture Science Centers) across India by Mitraniketan by email and via social media.

In Latin America, it's been a bit more difficult to get the project going for several reasons (see section 2.1 below), and at the end of the project, the LA coordinator, Centro REDES still had some follow up work to be done, e.g. the questionnaire to decision makers about local solutions, mini-grids and energy transition. However some CSOs participated in activities intended to promote sustainable energy and local solutions for inclusion in national, state/district, and local level climate and development plans. Dialogue was opened between public management sectors, such as the Argentine network of municipalities against climate change and local mini-grid initiatives, as well as experts in distributed energy generation and young activists.

To advance the task of disseminating local solutions among the youth of LA, our partners have joined the weekly Regional Conference for Youth (RCOY) activities. This space brings together young activists from across the region with the purpose of writing the declaration "From proposal to implementation." During these sessions, our partners managed to spread the concept of Local Solutions, focusing on distributed generation and its relevance in the "Energy Transition". We plan to collaborate on future projects with RCOY members, as this space covers various topics crucial to youth, such as energy, finance and biodiversity.

During the project, advocacy plans were made in Tanzania, Uganda, India and Bangladesh. In Senegal, the project helped CSOs to strengthen their advocacy efforts, and in Latin America the youth climate movement got local solutions added to the declaration of the RCOY, as good climate practices. Around 160 CSOs from 23+ countries participated in the webinars and we estimate that in at least 10 countries CSOs have via the information and training in webinars have increased attention to and activities with local sustainable energy solutions.

No external evaluation has been made in this project.

1.3 Achievement of objectives

Overall, have you achieved what you wanted with the intervention? (Select one of the answers below)

OutDid not achieve at all	To a lesser degree than expected	Close to expected	Exactly as expected	Better than expected
			x	

For each of your outcomes (objectives or goals), note in the table below how close you are to fulfilling the objectives (in percent).

	Achievement in %
Achievement of outcome 1	80 %
Achievement of outcome 2	70 %

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

1.4 Number of people reached

	Number
Number of persons who have participated in activities	380
Number of persons who have been affected by the interventions' activities (besides the persons who have participated directly)	Approx. 20.000

1.5 What lasting, sustainable improvements for the target groups have the intervention contributed to?

The participating INFORSE members have improved knowledge of the local sustainable energy solutions that CSOs in the network globally identify as the most effective and important for energy access in sustainable ways. In Latin America, the Youth Climate Movement will continue to advocate for local solutions, and in particular mini grids, as it was adopted in the declaration for the Regional Conference for Youth in Bogota.

The knowledge material developed in the project; podcasts, knowledge bank (in Latin America), the description of these local sustainable energy solutions and the training material are now available online together with descriptions on policies to promote them. They continue to be downloaded after the project ended, at the rate of 3-4 times per day (data for October 2023).

INFORSE Coordinators have strengthened cooperation, have used the experience from the network for INFORSE's 2023-2025 work programme and are planning new activities based on the experience from the project.

2. Changes and adjustments

2.1 Describe the most significant contextual challenges, and how these have influenced the intervention. How have you adjusted the intervention to adapt to these challenges.

It was a challenge to develop the analysis and descriptions of policies within the time planned in the project. Luckily we could postpone the end of the project, allowing sufficient time to realise the results. In Senegal the project encountered a situation that prevented the safe and smooth implementation. The country experienced an unprecedented political situation of instability that culminated in early June with nationwide unrest. This situation led the government to suspend internet connection in the country in an attempt to take control of the situation. This suspension of the internet and related communication means pushed ENDA to postpone the activities of the project, including the planned 5th webinar.

It was a challenge that the expected Brazilian partners were not able or willing to cooperate and activities in Latin America had to be limited to Spanish speaking countries. We tried to engage other partners from Brazil, but with our limited budget it was not sufficient. Furthermore, the focus on mini-grids for the local solutions from Latin America, also proved to be challenging, as there are very few examples of it in use in the region. They chose to focus on community energy solutions instead.

Furthermore, the limited funds did not allow financial support for members that developed advocacy strategies, to both develop and carry out the strategies. This was a problem for the South Indian and East African INFORSE members. The no-cost extension helped in getting more time to do the (unpaid) work, and for the East African members, additional resources were mobilised from other CSO's to support implementation of some of them.

Finally, it was a challenge to find a convenient time suitable for all partners from different parts of the world. Some of the partners had to sacrifice and join meetings at odd hours while some others had to cope with poor internet. However, all the partners made extra effort to make the project successful despite this challenge.

3. Inclusion of target groups

2.1 Fill in the table below. Add your primary target groups in the left column (primary target groups are persons who have participated directly in your activities). Add or delete columns according to how many primary target groups you have had in the intervention. Check the box according to what extent your primary target group(s) have been included in shaping the implementation of the intervention:

	Less degree of inclusion and participation <i>Target groups have been informed about the content of the intervention and their opportunities for participating in activities but have not participated actively in decision-making processes.</i>	Medium degree of inclusion and participation <i>Target groups have been consulted in decision-making processes related to the intervention.</i>	High degree of inclusion and participation <i>Target groups have contributed directly to the further development of the intervention and made decisions in collaboration with the implementing partner(s).</i>	Very high degree of inclusion and participation <i>Target groups have had the power and ownership to make decisions in connection with the implementation of the intervention.</i>
Target group 1 INFORSE Coordinators	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x
Target group 2 INFORSE	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	x	<input type="checkbox"/>

<i>members</i>				
Target group 3 Other CSOs, representatives of national/local authorities	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2.2 Describe/explain your answers in 3.1. How have target groups been included in the implementation of the intervention? Have you used any specific methods or approaches? Or why have target groups not been included?

Target group 1: The INFORSE coordinators were partners to the Project and have been actively contributing to both decisions and work of the project.

Target group 2: The INFORSE members, CSOs, were active in the webinars and some of them suggested additional information on the solutions and policies based on their experiences, and in one case proposed an additional local solution that was included in the later activities and in the publication. In Latin America, youth groups were included as crew members from the start, to ensure their participation, and also adjust the intervention according to their needs. In Tanzania, training sessions were provided for members and thereafter participants were given time for questions, and feedback. After trainings, participants were given a follow-up activity which included preparation of an advocacy strategy based on national context of which implementation of some of the activities were supported by the project funds.

Target group 3: The indirect target groups i.e, other CSOs and representatives of national/local authorities are involved in the project to a limited extent within the project period, however, other relevant CSOs were reached out through the webinar invitations, and both CSOs and authorities were reached out through the advocacy efforts, as well as the description of solutions and related policies are available online on INFORSE website.

4. The partnership

3.1 How would you assess that decisions have been made in relation to the implementation of the intervention? Please fill in the table below:

Decisions	Choose the description that best suits your partnership	Describe/explain your choice <i>Explain more about your relations in the partnership. How have you discussed the implementation of the intervention throughout implementation, and how have you made decisions?</i>
Decisions have been made jointly in the partnership	x	The project had monthly online meetings, where all partners presented results and where decisions were made, including which local solutions to focus on, division of work, planning of webinars etc.
Decisions have primarily been made by the local partner(s)	x	The decisions relating to the choice or selection of the sustainable energy solutions of technologies have fully been made by the partner. They know better the local circumstances and the kind of solutions are needed for their region.

3.2 Describe how the partners (and other actors, if relevant) have been strengthened through the intervention.

The project provided platforms for the INFORSE coordinators and members from different regions including South Asia, East Africa, West Africa and Latin America to work together. Through this platform, partners were able to share knowledge and experience on successful local sustainable energy solutions and policies from different regions. Therefore, knowledge and experience gained on local sustainable energy solutions promoted by the project could be scaled up from one region to another. The partners have also jointly organised presentations during COP26, COP27 and COP28 where the publication on the 12 best practices of local sustainable energy and climate solutions have been jointly presented. INSEDA submitted a joint proposal to Millennium Alliance with the coordinators from Africa and national coordinators from Asia, which has paved the way for possible future collaboration.

The African Development Bank (AfDB) announcement at COP28 to commit to scale up its contribution to clean cooking solutions for up to 20% of its total funding in the energy sector could offer an opportunity for further development and promotion for some of the solutions identified in the project with regard to the African CSOs.

5. Lessons learned

5.1 How have you received feedback from target groups and collected experiences and results throughout the intervention? Describe the methods and tools you have used. What strengths and weaknesses have your way of monitoring had?

Regular feedback was taken during monthly meetings from the project coordinators and collective decisions were taken based on the same. The use of monthly meetings was a good choice to keep the momentum and quickly make changes in plans as necessary.

The feedbacks from INFORSE members were taken in each region directly during the webinars and suggestions were incorporated in the next sessions. For example, some members had shown interest in presentation on solutions they have been working on and were given a platform for presentation. One of the partners did consultations with some of the members, and for Latin America, a questionnaire will be distributed to decision makers after the intervention. It is important to note the satisfaction of the participants in general.

5.2 What are the most important lessons learned? What advice would you give yourselves if you were to implement the intervention again?

On a positive note, a learning from the project is that it is possible to work with diverse groups across the globe from partners from different regions and countries and learn from the experiences of each other through online meetings. The project management was also better facilitated through regular online meetings and regular updates on progress of each partner. Budget limitations however made it necessary to take out relevant components, which could have strengthened the intervention further. E.g. by linking the activities more with climate policies, including international climate policies that guide the policies and funding for many of the solutions proposed in the project. This could have strengthened national advocacy as national decision-making in many countries is linked to international climate agreements and funding. Partners also asked for funds for doing local advocacy campaigns, reimbursement of internet charges for participants in the webinars (as all were online) to enhance the participation from member organisations. Another lesson learnt is that it is important to develop partnership. The project was designed during the period of COVID. If the intervention is to be made again, it will be important to diversify the means or ways of intervention and not to use webinars only.

Centro REDES in Latin America mentions that their intervention could have been improved with a better diagnosis of the local solution chosen, as they experienced that on grid and off grid cases were too few in the region. Furthermore, more communication with (anticipated) project participants before we started would have been essential to reinforce their participation in the activities.

It was learnt that most of the challenges faced by local communities in different regions where the project was implemented were alike. Most of the technologies promoted by the project were not new in some of the project regions, however given the existence of unfavourable policies such as high taxation, etc. have limited their adoption and therefore remained at demonstration stage. So, if policy becomes favourable, many people will easily adopt them because accessibility, affordability, etc. will increase.

6. Information work in Denmark

No budget was allocated for information work in Denmark.

7. Follow up

This section only applies if CISU has carried out a monitoring visit to the Danish and/or partner(s), if the letter of approval contained specific advice or if the organisation did not comply with CISU's requirements to financial management at the time of application.

No monitoring visit was conducted by CISU.

The Assessment Committee gave no advice.

All partners complied with CISU's requirements to financial management at the time of the application.

7. Other observations or reflections