



# Community involvement process?

How can community involvement be ensured?

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## Why community involvement?

In the last 5 decades the vast majority of energy projects has been established by commercial developers. Few have actually sought community involvement in any form.

RE projects provides contribution to sustainability, and as a result, many communities are now becoming more closely involved in the development and operation of projects to ensure that they too can directly benefit from renewable energy.



## Community benefits of involvement

A community can derive a considerable number of benefits from becoming involved in a renewable energy project:

- involvement will give the community some degree of control over the scheme
- a financial return should be generated, both to the community and investors
- if successful, involvement in a community venture will provide a sense of satisfaction.



## Key points for community involvement

- The success of community schemes comes through the involvement of individuals and groups from either communities of locality or communities of interest.
- Involvement can be achieved through community consultations and through community investment.
- Community involvement is important at all stages and should be offered in a variety of ways.
- Though many forms of involvement are possible, concerns about local impact should be balanced by clearly identifiable local benefit.



## Key points for community involvement

- Community projects require initial work to raise awareness, secure commitment and set up an organisation.
- Community schemes will have to address exactly the same requirements for consultations as commercial projects.
- Project scenarios vary in terms of appropriate structures, access to set-up funding, the nature of core groups, their requirements for technical input, the means of accessing main funding, and methods of securing investment.
- For many community projects, one particularly difficult stage is the initiation, when money may be hard to secure but is essential for progress.



## Community involvement

- a) How far is the project embedded in local (community ; village committees, local health authorities etc ) structures? *Local community management; Well-structured and well-functioning?*
- b) To what extent have target groups and possibly other relevant interest groups / stakeholders been involved in the planning / implementation process? *E.g. Participation in construction like Practical Action example*
- c) To what extent are relevant target groups actively involved in decision-making concerning project orientation and implementation? *Steering Committee?*
- d) What is the likelihood that target groups / beneficiaries will continue to make use of relevant results after external support has ended? *Will connection fees for new users rise?*



Women preparing cement – participation by the community in Malawi



## Policy support for the community

**What is the level of policy support provided and the degree of interaction between project / community and policy level?**

- a) What support has been provided from the relevant national, sectoral and budgetary policies? *Part of national electrification plan?*
- b) Do changes in policies and priorities affect the project and how well is it adapting, also to long-term needs for support? *Changes in national electrification plan? Shift in focus to other fuel supplies?*
- c) Is any public and private sector policy support likely to continue after the project has finished?



## Capacity development – also at community level

### How well is the project contributing to institutional and management capacity?

- a) How far is the project embedded in institutional structures (at regional or national level / often government structures) that are likely to survive beyond the life of the project? *Cooperation with district committees?*
- b) Are project partners being properly developed (technically, financially, and managerially) for continuing to deliver the project's benefits/services? *Can they operate and maintain the plant? Can they continue providing awareness on energy saving? Do they know how to retrieve payment from users?*
- c) Will adequate levels of suitable qualified HR be available to continue to deliver the project's stream of benefits? *Will 7 of 8 trained persons leave?*
- d) Are there good relations with new or existing institutions and are there plans to continue with some or all of the project's activities? *Are existing structures being used to deliver the training?*





## Community Involvement Presentation by the projects:

“Providing access to modern energy for northern Uganda (PAMENU)”, Uganda [GTZ (GIZ)]

“Community Assisted Access to Sustainable Energy (CASE) Project”, Rwanda [CARE International in Rwanda]



## Questions for Group work Community Involvement

1. How to ensure a high level of ownership of the project by beneficiaries and how will it likely be after the end of external support?
2. What are the three most important things to remember in the project design; in the implementation; and after completion?



ACP - EU Energy Facility  
*Monitoring*

Thank you!