



## Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

### Report

#### National Workshop on “Gender Empowerment and Entrepreneurial Development in the Rural Context: The Role of Renewable Energy”

Amman, Jordan 20-21 November 2019

#### Summary

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), in partnership with the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources (MEMR) in Jordan, organized a National Workshop on “Gender Empowerment and Entrepreneurial Development in the Rural Context: The Role of Renewable Energy” in Amman, Jordan on 20 and 21 November 2019. The main objective of the workshop was to highlight the role of renewable energy in gender equality and women empowerment, and to formulate actionable recommendations for mainstreaming gender and human rights in policy planning, capacity building, and awareness raising for rural areas.

The workshop allowed the sharing of women empowerment experiences and initiatives both from a national and a regional perspective while the discussions covered the challenges currently being faced, the lessons learned from previous experiences and projects, and the recommended solutions and suggestions going forward.

The workshop concluded with a series of recommendations that address national collaboration on data collection and sharing, stakeholder cooperation and coordination, and capacity-building and awareness-raising opportunities.

## Contents

I.	INTRODUCTION .....	2
II.	RECOMMENDATIONS.....	2
III.	MAIN TOPICS OF DISCUSSIONS .....	3
A.	SETTING THE STAGE: RENEWABLE ENERGY AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT.....	3
B.	THE JORDANIAN CONTEXT AND GENDER EMPOWERMENT: REGENPERSPECTIVES AND RESULTS OF ASSESSMENT .....	3
C.	THE JORDANIAN CONTEXT AND GENDER EMPOWERMENT: DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS .....	5
D.	NATIONAL GENDER EMPOWERMENT EXPERIENCES: CASE STUDIES .....	5
E.	NATIONAL PATHWAYS TO GENDER MAINSTREAMING AND ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT: ACCESS TO STEM EDUCATION, TECHNOLOGY, CAPACITY BUILDING AND FINANCE CHANNELS .....	6
F.	PANEL DISCUSSION ON PROMOTING INTEGRATED APPROACHES TO ADDRESS GENDER EMPOWERMENT AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE RENEWABLE ENERGY SECTOR IN JORDAN: WAY FORWARD .....	7
G.	CLOSING SESSION.....	8
IV.	ORGANIZATION OF WORK .....	8
A.	DATE AND VENUE .....	8
B.	OPENING.....	8
C.	PARTICIPANTS .....	8
D.	AGENDA .....	8
E.	EVALUATION .....	8
	ANNEX I: AGENDA.....	10
	ANNEX II: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS.....	14

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

1. The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), in partnership with Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources (MEMR), organized a National Workshop on “Gender Empowerment and Entrepreneurial Development in the Rural Context: The Role of Renewable Energy” in Amman, Jordan on 20 and 21 November 2019.
2. The main objective of the workshop was to highlight the role of renewable energy (RE) in gender equality and women empowerment in rural areas, and to formulate actionable recommendations for mainstreaming gender and human rights in policy planning, capacity building, and awareness raising for rural areas.
3. Fifty-five (55) participants representing local, regional, and international gender and energy experts, NGOs, government ministries and entities, UN organizations, research institutions, and academia attended the workshop.
4. The workshop spanned over two days and consisted of six sessions. Section II of this report summarizes the workshop’s recommendations while section III provides a summary of the presentations and the main topics of discussions held during each session. Section IV reviews the organization of work, including information regarding the workshop agenda, participants and a summary of the participants’ evaluation outcome. The full documentation of the workshop is available at the following address:

<https://www.unescwa.org/events/workshop-gender-empowerment-entrepreneurial-rural-Jordan>

## **II. RECOMMENDATIONS**

5. This national workshop concluded with the following findings and recommendations:
  - a) Develop capacity-building and training activities for schools, universities, and vocational schools on renewable energy, energy efficiency, and gender and for people living in rural areas, especially women, since they are the primary users of electrical appliances. This will help them reduce their electricity bill which is considered a hardship in rural areas.
  - b) Develop capacity-building and training activities for farmers on sustainable agriculture to improve the productivity of lands and to reduce the use of water and pesticides.
  - c) Organize a Renewable Energy Awareness Day to spread awareness and knowledge on renewable energy and available assistance programs in rural areas, and to connect rural residents, students, and graduates with renewable energy companies for potential projects, internships, and employment, respectively.
  - d) Connect university and vocational school students with renewable energy companies and create internship programs for them to develop their skills and provide them with the experience needed to become competitive in the job market.
  - e) Connect ministries, institutions, and active international organizations with rural organizations and encourage them to coordinate and collaborate on gender empowerment initiatives and achieve higher energy access which will result in effective and integrated strategies that will keep people in their rural homes.
  - f) Foster and/or build partnership on gender data between ESCWA and the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, the Ministry of Agriculture, and the Department of Statistics to improve gender data collection and analysis for use by projects and initiatives targeting gender empowerment.
  - g) Organize a national workshop on regulations and policies with all the concerned stakeholders to address related mentioned recommendations.

### **III. MAIN TOPICS OF DISCUSSIONS**

Presentations and discussions are summarized in the following sections which are organized according to the substantive sessions of the workshop.

#### **A. SETTING THE STAGE: RENEWABLE ENERGY AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT**

6. The session opened with a presentation by ESCWA on the Arab region's energy vulnerabilities and progress on SDG7 as well the challenges and opportunities for uptake of energy efficiency (EE) and renewable energy (RE). The REGEND Project was introduced along with its objectives and expected accomplishments. The projects' focus on Arab rural communities and the infusion of the gender aspect were highlighted when conveying the objectives related to socio-economic development in rural areas, gender empowerment, social integration, job creation and using RE technologies in productive sectors.
7. A presentation by the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources (MEMR) provided an overview about the electricity sector in Jordan and the National Energy Strategy and the National Renewable Energy Action Plan along with the associated regulatory framework. Then, RE development schemes were presented in addition to operational, under construction, and planned solar photovoltaic (PV) and wind energy projects. Finally, feasibility studies for pumped storage and concentrated solar power projects were discussed.
8. A presentation by MEMR provided data about women participation in the energy sector and in leadership roles at MEMR in Jordan and listed the recommendations to increase women participation. Success stories of women beneficiaries from RE projects were then showcased with a focus on the direct benefits to the women involved.
9. Ensuing discussions highlighted the current programme by MEMR to install solar PV systems for poor families throughout rural Jordan and it was emphasized how women getting connected to electricity thanks to these systems are being empowered to stay in their land - rather than leave - and to start income-generating productive activities. Therefore, it was agreed that since women are the primary users of electrical appliances, they need to be empowered and targeted with trainings and capacity building to improve their knowledge of RE and EE and consequently, reduce their electricity bill which is considered a hardship in rural areas.
10. The participants also recognized the presence of the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development's network of rural women and a suggestion was made to empower this network, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), to work with community-based organizations (CBO) to improve their skills by adding energy related aspects as training topics. Final deliberations recognized the role of ESCWA through the REGEND Project in connecting ministries, institutions and donors with organizations in rural areas and getting them to coordinate and collaborate to empower women and achieve higher renewable energy access which will result in effective and integrated strategies that will support income-generating activities and thus national economic development and address the rural-urban divide.

#### **B. THE JORDANIAN CONTEXT AND GENDER EMPOWERMENT: REGEND PERSPECTIVES AND RESULTS OF ASSESSMENT**

11. A presentation by ESCWA on REGEND's assessment of prevailing situations in the rural areas of Jordan started by going through Jordan's socio-economic indicators and then moved on to cover rural indicators along with a stakeholders' mapping.

12. The presentation brought forth economic and social indicators for 2017 and 2018 and the first quarter of 2019; economic sectors and their contribution to GDP for the year 2017; the relative distribution of Jordanians according to educational level and gender for the year 2018; energy sources in Jordan; Small and Medium Enterprises' growth constraints; and social, environmental and economic challenges for rural development in Jordan .
13. An analysis of the chosen areas was presented. The areas are Al-Ash'ari in the Governorate of Ma'an and Batir and Rakin in the Governorate of Al-Karak. The strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges of each region were conveyed.
14. A presentation by ESCWA's consultant on the outcomes of the REGEND's gender mainstreaming, social inclusion, and human rights processes study in Jordan provided an overview on Jordan covering economic, social, and gender indicators. The gender gap index in Jordan was discussed, and it was stated to be 138 out of 149 in the world. This index is a composite made up of several indicators that include the gap in education, public health, political participation and economic participation with the gender gap being the largest in economic participation.
15. The study and analysis suggested recommendations that include:
  - a) Increase awareness of RE programs and their impact on the economy.
  - b) Apply an integrated method that includes marketing and capacity building in addition to RE projects to maximize impact.
  - c) Consider appropriate financing mechanisms for RE projects from banks or from grants and review the relevant legislation.
  - d) Collect gender sensitive data from different ministries, bodies and institutions, and create a common database that is updated continuously.
  - e) Align policies with sustainable development goals and link the indicators used by ministries and institutions with the gender aspect.
  - f) Empower vocational training through linking the different operational centers and adopting modern tools related to RE systems.
16. The key messages that came up from the discussion among the participants are:
  - a) Shortage of availability of funding bodies with existing obstacles for financing RE projects due to the lack of capacity in conducting feasibility studies of such projects and providing financing accordingly.
  - b) Large gaps in the gender index are not always related to subpar legislation; it is argued that the gap can be due to the prevailing societal and cultural traditions recognized within the society, such as a woman giving up inheritance to sibling.
  - c) An intervention is needed regarding the necessity of pursuing awareness programs and promoting the political role of women and encouraging them to reach the high political ranks and decision-making roles.
  - d) Further efforts are required in regard to pursuing awareness raising programs. Indeed, awareness raising can be highly effective if it targets the local communities through direct visits, social media, radio and television. Discussing RE and linking it with the topic of EE and raising awareness among citizens about the optimal use of RE sources and rationalizing energy consumption is vital.

### C. THE JORDANIAN CONTEXT AND GENDER EMPOWERMENT: DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

17. National initiatives on gender empowerment were presented during this session. The representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Jordan conveyed some of the success stories of UNDP related to gender equality in environmental projects in Jordan. It was stated that women in Jordan are the ones that are directly dealing with environmental issues. Lessons learned and challenges were presented based on UNDP's projects and include limited access to funding and mobility by women, a prevalent gap in technical environmental knowledge for women in rural areas and a male domination in technical sectors. It was also conveyed that in the environmental sector, policies and regulations do not have concepts that incorporate gender integration and empowerment.
18. A representative from the Jordanian MOA presented activities undertaken by the ministry that tackle gender empowerment and discussed challenges facing rural women. It was emphasized that focus should be made on tackling empowerment of the individual before addressing other socio-economic and cultural factors. The importance of supporting the development of self-esteem and personal development first was highlighted. Economic empowerment and capacity building activities should then follow. The constraints that could come up from cultural norms and poor access to finance conditions were also conveyed.
19. A discussion between participants then followed negotiating the importance of addressing the aspects related to cultural norms including sharing responsibilities within a household, the need to differentiate and distinguish between women empowerment, gender equality and gender equity, and to effectively target and consider the conditions of marginalized groups.

### D. NATIONAL GENDER EMPOWERMENT EXPERIENCES: CASE STUDIES

20. GIZ covered through their presentation the Development of Green Infrastructure in Rural Areas and the Empowerment of Women Project which aims to establish, improve, and rehabilitate green open spaces in urban, semi urban and rural communities. The project focused on ecosystem rehabilitation, ecotourism, and the improvement of agricultural practices. The project enabled the training of women on a variety of skills while achieving a women participation greater than 40%.
21. Opportunity was given to one of the selected CBOs targeted by REGEND project, Al Jawhara Charitable CBO in Al Ashaari, Ma'an, to present the CBO, its donors, beneficiaries, projects, and initiatives. A revolving loan program was set up for the unemployed to invest in productive activities, while the remaining activities revolved around a daycare project, agriculture and solar water heating systems projects, an events equipment rental project, a medicinal plant growing project, and a cooking class and kitchen equipment project. The CBO's high cost of electricity as a main challenge impeding growth was also discussed.
22. A presentation by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) presented the organization's strategic framework and focused on the gender aspect. The gender projects implemented in Jordan were then showcased and whose aim was to enhance food security and nutrition for the most vulnerable Jordanians and Syrian refugee households through improved access to safe and nutritious foods.
23. A presentation by the Wise Women Plumbers Cooperative highlighted its vision and message which aim at providing plumbing maintenance services for households by training women and assisting them to find employment in the sector. This initiative led to the repair of water fixtures and the retrofitting of homes

with water-saving and electricity-saving devices which resulted in savings equivalent to 75% of initial usage.

24. A presentation by the MENA Region Initiative as a Model of NEXUS Approach and Renewable Energy Technologies (MINARET) Project highlighted the project's objectives, implementing partners, targeted countries, and the targeted SDGs. The project's gender assessment findings were then presented which culminated in the development of a Strategic Gender Action Plan. The project will be conducting capacity-building trainings on gender, water, energy, and agriculture and implementing a series of projects promoting the use of RE, water, and EE, while contributing to gender equality.
25. The participants recognized the benefits of organizing rural fairs where women get to advertise and sell their products and the Jordanian experience in this context has been a very successful one with the help and support of FAO. The profit generated was used to produce more products and the advertisement at the fair resulted in higher demand and sales throughout the year. Based on this successful experience, a business development center was set up to provide rural women with further training on food safety, packaging, labeling, marketing, and advertising. Furthermore, and to mitigate social norms in rural areas, it was also agreed that men need to be trained so that they become in agreement that women can be trained.
26. A recommendation based on success stories from South Africa called "bridging" was brought forward where small producers unable to make a profit on their own teamed up with other small producers to effectively produce higher quantities that can then be sold for a profit to be shared based on each individual contribution. In light of the presentations showcasing the success stories of women entrepreneurship and employment in non-traditional sectors, a recommendation was advanced to create a prize for women working on such successful initiatives and projects.

#### E. NATIONAL PATHWAYS TO GENDER MAINSTREAMING AND ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT: ACCESS TO STEM EDUCATION, TECHNOLOGY, CAPACITY BUILDING AND FINANCE CHANNELS

27. The session started by a presentation from a local NGO that introduced programs related to small grants for empowerment of marginalized communities. It was stated that the NGO found that women are usually more committed to a loan when compared to men and that it is essential for them to have complementarity between the different projects and grants so that not to overlap and to increase positive impact.
28. A presentation by a representative from the Princess Sumaya University for Technology followed and highlighted gender segregation concepts in terms of STEM education. It was discussed that employment statistics that are gender relevant should take into account additional factors such as the relevance of the work to the academic degree attained and the particular job role assigned (e.g. administrative or technical).
29. Afterwards, a representative from the Arab Federation for Food Industries discussed the main challenges facing rural communities and women farmers in regard to the value chain of the agro-food production. It was stated that empowering rural women is composite of tackling 10 out of the 17 SDGs. The discussed challenges include lack of food safety and hygiene, poor sustainability of operation and business, poor storage and packaging operations, and a high demand for energy when it comes to transport and other activities within the value chain. It was highlighted that targeted funding opportunities and sustainable and cheap energy can prove to be highly impactful.
30. Another local NGO representative presented the initiative undertaken to empower marginalized communities with RE and EE. The discussion stressed on the criticality of raising awareness for both men

and women while focusing on gender equity, and to work on changing the restraining social norms and preconceived social roles.

#### F. PANEL DISCUSSION ON PROMOTING INTEGRATED APPROACHES TO ADDRESS GENDER EMPOWERMENT AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE RENEWABLE ENERGY SECTOR IN JORDAN: WAY FORWARD

31. ESCWA invited the participants to discuss and deliberate on means for gender mainstreaming in the energy sector including data collection, analysis, and use; capacity-building and awareness-raising opportunities; and coordination and collaboration of all involved stakeholders towards a unified vision.
32. Students from national universities who were invited as observers to take part at the workshop were given the floor to reflect on their views on the gender aspects and the role of RE. It was impressive to get their feedback on the importance of this gathering that allowed them for the first time to identify how many stakeholders are operating in the RE and entrepreneurship sectors in Jordan which could open up work opportunities for young professionals. Moreover, representatives of students presented the work and activities they undertake in their university to increase awareness on the role of RE and EE and gender equity in the workplace. They also suggested to work together in organising awareness days for students which could help to raise the interest of girls and boys in selecting the sustainable energy pathway for their career development; a recommendation which was very well received by ESCWA and partner organisations.
33. Based on the discussions, it was agreed that the main challenges facing gender empowerment in the energy sector in Jordan are gender data availability, collection, and analysis; the weak cooperation and coordination between all stakeholders working on women empowerment; the lack of education and awareness on EE and RE technologies and entrepreneurship in rural areas for both men and women; and the need for increased knowledge and training on sustainable agriculture.
34. This national workshop concluded with the following findings and recommendations:
  - a) Develop capacity-building and training activities for schools, universities, and vocational schools on renewable energy, energy efficiency, and gender, especially women, since they are the primary users of electrical appliances. This will help them reduce their electricity bill which is considered a hardship in rural areas.
  - b) Organize a Renewable Energy Awareness Day to spread awareness and knowledge on renewable energy and available assistance programs in rural areas, and to connect rural residents, students, and graduates with renewable energy companies for potential projects, internships, and employment, respectively.
  - c) Develop capacity-building and training activities for farmers on sustainable agriculture to improve the productivity of lands and to reduce the use of water and pesticides.
  - d) Connect university and vocational school students with renewable energy companies and create internship programs for them to develop their skills and provide them with the experience needed to become competitive in the job market.
  - e) Support coordination between ministries, institutions, and active international organizations with rural organizations and encourage them to coordinate and collaborate on gender empowerment initiatives and achieve higher energy access which will result in effective and integrated strategies that will keep people in their rural homes.
  - f) Foster and/or build partnership on gender data between ESCWA and the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, the Ministry of Agriculture, and the Department of Statistics to improve gender data collection and analysis for use by projects and initiatives targeting gender empowerment.



- g) Organize a national workshop on regulations and policies with concerned stakeholders to address policy and financial aspects of related mentioned recommendations.

#### G. CLOSING SESSION

- 35. The closing statement emphasized the workshop's fruitful discussions and the intention to continue coordination and collaboration with the represented stakeholders. A summary of the key recommendations and discussion points was conveyed along with REGEND's upcoming activities that include the RE pilot projects to be implemented in Jordan, capacity-building activities and the dissemination of the accrued knowledge and policy recommendations.

### IV. ORGANIZATION OF WORK

#### A. DATE AND VENUE

- 36. The workshop was held at the Sheraton Hotel, Amman, Jordan on 20 and 21 November 2019.

#### B. OPENING

- 37. The workshop was formally opened by Ms. Radia Sedaoui, Chief of the Energy Section, Sustainable Development Policies Division, ESCWA and Mr. Zeyad Alsaada, Director of Electricity and Rural Electrification Directorate, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources (MEMR).

#### C. PARTICIPANTS

- 38. The workshop was attended by 55 participants representing local, regional, and international gender and energy experts, NGOs, government ministries and entities, UN organizations, research institutions, and academia. The list of participants is shown in Annex II.

#### D. AGENDA

- 39. Presentations and discussions were made over five sessions. The agenda of the workshop is summarized below and provided in Annex I below:
  - a. Opening Session and Introduction
  - b. Setting the stage: Renewable energy and women empowerment
  - c. The Jordanian context and gender empowerment: REGEND perspectives and results of assessment
  - d. The Jordanian context and gender empowerment: Development programs and projects
  - e. National gender empowerment experiences: Case studies
  - f. National pathways to gender mainstreaming and entrepreneurial development: Access to stem education, technology, capacity building and finance channels
  - g. Panel discussion on promoting integrated approaches to address gender empowerment and gender equality in the renewable energy sector in Jordan: Way forward
  - h. Closing Statement

#### E. EVALUATION

- 40. An evaluation questionnaire was distributed to the participants to assess the relevance, effectiveness, and impact of the workshop. The feedback received from 29 respondents was positive with 97% of the respondents confirming that the overall quality of the workshop met their expectations and that the

workshop achieved its objectives. The quality of the presentations provided, and the facilitation of the discussions were rated as good or excellent by 97% of the respondents and 90% thought that the time allocated for the workshop and each session was appropriate. 90% of the 25 people that filled in the survey's organizational questions stated that their role was clearly communicated and that ESCWA supported them in preparing their inputs. Finally, 92% expressed their interest in introducing and/or implementing gender-mainstreaming activities in the energy sector in Jordan with the highest interests being in gender mainstreaming and human right strategy and action plans in the RE sector in rural areas.

41. A shared suggestion received was to allow more time for interactions and discussions to further enhance sharing of best practices and experiences. Furthermore, it was suggested to include environmental indicators in the different studies and projects and a comment was raised on using the plastic bottles and the printouts at the workshop.

# ANNEX I: AGENDA

UNITED NATIONS

E



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## Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

National Workshop on “Gender Empowerment and Entrepreneurial Development in the Rural Context: The Role of Renewable Energy” for the “Regional Initiative for Promoting Small-Scale Renewable Energy Applications in rural areas of the Arab Region (REGEND)”

Amman, Jordan – 20-21 November 2019

## Agenda

The Regional Initiative for Promoting Small-Scale Renewable Energy Applications in rural areas of the Arab Region (REGEND) Project	
Wednesday, 20 November 2019	
Day 1 of the National Workshop on “Gender Empowerment and Entrepreneurial Development in the Rural Context: The Role of Renewable Energy”	
08:30 – 09:00	<b>Registration</b>  Sponsored participants are kindly asked to bring their passport, visa stamp and Airline ticket stub to the meeting.
09:00 – 09:30	<b>Opening Session and Introduction</b>
09:00 – 09:10	<b>Welcoming Remarks</b> Mr. Zeyad Alsaaeda, Director of Electricity & Rural Electrification Directorate, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources (MEMR)  Ms. Radia Sedaoui, Chief Energy Section, Sustainable Development Policies Division (SDPD), UN-ESCWA
09:10 – 09:20	<b>Tour de Table</b>
09:20 – 09:30	<b>Review of the Agenda and Expected Outcomes of the Meeting</b> Mr. Ahmad Diab, Research Assistant, Energy Section, SDPD, UN-ESCWA
<b>Session I</b>	<b>Setting the Stage: Renewable Energy and Gender Empowerment</b>
Moderator:	Mr. Zeyad Alsaaeda, MEMR
Rapporteur:	Mr. Jil Amine, Sustainable Development Officer, Energy Section, SDPD, UN-ESCWA
09:30 – 09:50	<b>Renewable Energy Projects in Jordan</b> Mr. Yacoub Marrar, Director of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Directorate, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources (MEMR)

09:50 – 10:10	<b>The Role of Women and Success Stories in Jordan</b> Ms. Shorouq Abdel Ghani, Director of Planning and Organizational Development Directorate, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources (MEMR)
10:10 – 10:30	<b>Presenting the Regional Initiative to Promote Small-scale Renewable Energy Applications in Rural Areas of the Arab Region (REGEND) Project</b> Ms. Radia Sedaoui, UN-ESCWA
10:30 – 10:50	<b>Q&amp;A and Discussion</b>
10:50 – 11:05	<b>Coffee Break</b>
<b>Session II</b>	<b>The Jordanian Context and Gender Empowerment: Results of Assessment and REGEND Perspectives</b>
Moderator:	Ms. Radia Sedaoui, UN-ESCWA
Rapporteur:	Ms. Rasha Hudeeb, Assistant Electrical Engineer, Rural Electrification Directorate, Ministry of Energy & Mineral Resources (MEMR)
11:05 – 11:25	<b>REGEND's Assessment of Prevailing Situations in Rural Areas of Jordan</b> Mr. Bashar Zeitoon, UN-ESCWA Consultant
11:25 – 11:45	<b>REGEND's Gender Assessment in Jordan</b> Ms. Sawsan Gharaibeh, UN-ESCWA Consultant
11:45 – 12:00	<b>Discussion</b>
12:00 – 13:00	<b>Group Photo and Lunch Break</b>
<b>Session III</b>	<b>The Jordanian Context and Gender Empowerment: Development Programs and Projects</b>
Moderator:	Ms. Sawsan Gharaibeh, UN-ESCWA
Rapporteur:	Mr. Ahmad Diab, Research Assistant, Energy Section, SDPD, UN-ESCWA
13:00 – 13:20	<b>Mainstreaming Gender Equality in the Environmental Management System in Jordan</b> Mr. Maisam Otoum, Project Officer, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
13:20 – 13:40	<b>The Role of Rural Women and Gender Mainstreaming in Promoting Economic Empowerment: The Challenges Facing Rural Women in Such Communities</b> Ms. Lama Shamyleh, Head of Economic Empowerment of Rural Women, Ministry of Agriculture - Jordan
13:40 – 14:00	<b>Coffee Break</b>
14:00 – 14:45	<b>Q&amp;A and Discussion</b>
14:45 – 15:00	<b>Closing of Day 1</b>

Thursday, 21 November 2019	
Day 2 of the National Workshop on “Gender Empowerment and Entrepreneurial Development in the Rural Context: The Role of Renewable Energy”	
Session IV	National Gender Empowerment Experiences: Case Studies
Moderator:	Ms. Lama Shamleh, Ministry of Agriculture - Jordan
Rapporteur:	Mr. Jil Amine, UN-ESCWA
09:00 – 09:20	<b>Public Space Appropriation: Development of Green Infrastructure in Rural Areas and the Empowerment of Women</b> Ms. Dina Dudokh, Project Field Officer, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ)
09:20 – 09:40	<b>Gender Mainstreaming in the MINARET project: Nature-Based Solutions for Sustainable Development</b> Ms. Mar Echevarria, Gender Expert, MINARET Project.
09:40 – 10:00	<b>Gender Mainstreaming in Agriculture Water Energy Nexus; in the Context of Renewable Energy</b> Ms. Wafaa Ramadneh, Gender Focal Point, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
10:00 – 10:20	<b>The Role of Al-Jawhara Charitable Association in Supporting Women and the Activities of the Association: The Difficulties Faced in the Field of Energy</b> Ms. Jamila Al Jazi, President of Al-Jawhara Charitable Association
10:20 – 10:40	<b>Wise Women Plumbers Cooperative: Rationalization of Water and Energy Consumption</b> Ms. Tahani Al-Shatti, Head of The Plumbers Cooperative
10:40 – 11:10	<b>Q&amp;A and Discussion</b>
11:10 – 11:25	<b>Coffee Break</b>
Session V	National Pathways to Gender Mainstreaming and Entrepreneurial development: Access to STEM education, Technology, Capacity Building and Finance Channels
Moderator:	Mr. Omar Abu Eid, Energy, Environment & Climate Change Programme Manager, Delegation of the European Union to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
Rapporteur:	Mr. Ahmad Diab, UN-ESCWA
11:25 – 11:45	<b>Micro Financing and Small Grants: Presenting Case Studies</b> Ms. Jaleela Smadi, Jerasa Charitable Society for Women, GEF small grants program
11:45 – 12:05	<b>STEM Education for Women, Vocational Training and Strengthening the Link Between Higher Education and the Job Market</b> Ms. Majd Batarseh, Assistant Professor, Electrical Engineering, Princess Sumaya University for Technology
12:05 – 12:25	<b>Empowering Rural Women in all the Agricultural Food Processing Chains</b> Mr. Fadi Jaber, Secretary-General, Arab Federation for Food Industries

12:25 – 12:55	<b>Challenge to Opportunity: Women and Youth Driving Inclusive Employment and Entrepreneurship in RE &amp; EE Sector in Jordan</b> An open discussion, Eng Mohammad Ramadan, Project Team Leader, with the energy ambassadors from the Sustainable Energy and Economic Development project in Jordan (SEED)
12:55 – 13:15	<b>Q&amp;A and Discussion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ What indicators can be developed to support local, sub-national and national institutions in developing context-based policies and actions? How to develop these indicators?</li> <li>➤ How is access to finance linked to rural development and gender mainstreaming?</li> <li>➤ Does collaboration between national players and stakeholders generate an output that is greater than the sum of its parts?</li> <li>➤ What methods can be applied to integrate societal and cultural considerations when approaching gender mainstreaming and rural development?</li> </ul>
13:15 – 14:15	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>Session VI</b>	<b>Panel discussion on promoting integrated approaches to address gender empowerment and gender equality in the renewable energy sector in Jordan: Way Forward</b>
Moderator:	Ms. Radia Sedaoui, UN-ESCWA
Rapporteur:	Mr. Jil Amine, UN-ESCWA
14:15 – 14:35	<b>Rural Development and Empowerment through Renewable Energy Technologies: REGEND's pilot Projects</b> Mr. Iyad Muslih, UN-ESCWA Consultant
14:35 – 15:00	<b>Discussion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Where do you identify the most potential for introducing and implementing gender mainstreaming in the energy sector and what are the main challenges and barriers?</li> <li>➤ Are there any statistics or data that track the implementation of gender mainstreaming and what are your suggestions or recommendations to develop such baseline and indicators?</li> <li>➤ How can the developed renewable energy capacity be leveraged not only for renewable energy entrepreneurship, but also to boost and create current and new productive activities that support women empowerment and improve their lives?</li> <li>➤ What gender mainstreaming and human rights action plans and recommendations can be recommended to policy makers, government and local institutions for the energy sector?</li> <li>➤ What are the recommended main themes to develop capacity building programs around to be implemented by the REGEND Project?</li> </ul>
15:00 – 15:15	<b>Coffee Break</b>
15:15 – 15:25	<b>Summary of Key Messages and Recommendations for the Way Forward</b> Ms. Radia Sedaoui, UN-ESCWA
15:25 – 15:30	<b>End of Day 2 and Closing Remarks</b> Ms. Radia Sedaoui, UN-ESCWA Mr. Zeyad Alsaaeda, MEMR

## ANNEX II: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

### Ministries

#### Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources (MEMR)

**Mr. Yacoub Marrar**  
Director

**Ms. Rasha Hudeeb**  
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