

EUSEW Webinar: Breaking out of the bubble: why gender just energy communities speed up the energy transition

‘WOMEN AS ENERGY ENTREPRENEURS’

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Presentation Outline

- About ARUWE
- Why women as Energy Entrepreneurs
- Women Empowerment-Approaches and processes
- A case of commercial production of briquettes as a viable business
- Benefits
- Challenges and recommendations

About ARUWE



- Legally registered NGO, rural and rights focused, that strengthens women's leadership so that collectively, they can break the chains of poverty, patriarchy, class and sexual repression.
- We do this through advocating for rural women's economic justice, SRHR and enabling communities to adapt to climate change, challenging the negative impact of rigid and oppressive gender stereotypes.

Contextual Analysis

Uganda

- is a land locked country in EA
- Population is approx. 45m
- Agriculture is the main economic sector employing over 70% of labour force
- 80% of the population stay in rural areas
- The economy of Uganda is highly dependent on natural resources making the country vulnerable to the impacts of climate change



Why Women as Energy Entrepreneurs

- Women make 50.78% of the total population
 - In Uganda, women tend to be primarily responsible for most of the household activities; childbearing and child-rearing; household maintenance (including cooking and fetching water and firewood)
 - Women play an important role in climate change adaptation and mitigation because of their roles in climate change sectors; agriculture, livestock management, energy, water management etc
 - Unfortunately Uganda's energy sector is still predominantly dependent on biomass (wood fuel 78.6%, charcoal 5.6% and crop residues 4.7%)
- If empowered technically and financially, women understand their energy needs and they can innovate and promote renewable energy for sustainable development

Women Empowerment (Approaches and processes)

- Consultative with local leadership



- Needs Assessment



Women Empowerment

- Awareness raising and training on RE



- Organising-Cooperative model



Women Empowerment

- Women Ambassadors



- Agro-ecology Demonstration Centre



A case of commercial production of briquettes as a viable business



With technical and financial support from WEFC, ARUWE has facilitated women at household and co-operative levels to increase the local value chain by producing briquettes as alternative RE technology.

Briquettes are compressed blocks of carbonized kitchen and farm combustible materials

Women are trained to produce briquettes using bio-waste hence a great potential to replace or supplement indigenous energy sources with multiple economic environmental and social benefits

Benefits (Economic, Environmental, Social and Health)

- Reduced use of firewood/time to collect it
- Reduced health risks due to less emissions
- Efficient burning rates
- Income generation/jobs
- Use of local agricultural residues



Promotion of Renewable Energy



Challenges and Recommendation



- Increase climate financing mechanisms with a demonstrated gender impacts i.e direct access to micro-grants for community driven adaption interventions
- Capacity building and awareness raising on climate change impact and mitigation is still needed

Thank you for Listening!

