

## **Report for the Policy Dialogue Panel Meeting on Urban and Peri-Urban Energy Access**

**Date: 13th October 2011**

**Venue: AFREPREN/FWD Offices, Nairobi, Kenya**

**Prepared by AFREPREN/FWD**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

The Policy Dialogue Panel meeting on Urban and Peri-Urban Energy Access was held at AFREPREN/FWD offices, Nairobi on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2011, from 2.30pm to 4.30pm (See Appendix I). This was the first policy panel dialogue meeting to be organized under the thematic study of Urban and Peri-Urban Energy Access (UPEA) focusing on the low-income urban area of Nairobi known as Kibera. Nairobi is the largest city in East Africa. It is home to over three million people of which 60% dwell in informal settlements such as Kibera Slum. The poor residents of Kibera face major challenges in accessing adequate levels of modern energy services..

The dialogue was attended by representatives of national power utility company, liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) distributors and stockists, Kibera (a major low-income urban community in Nairobi) representatives and AFREPREN/FWD members of staff (See Appendix II) to address the issue of modern energy services for the urban and peri-urban poor.

### **OBJECTIVES**

The two hours policy dialogue meeting focused on energy access for the urban poor such as Kibera residents. The discussions were mainly on barriers to supply of cooking gas and electricity and addressed the following main objectives:

1. To discuss supply-side barriers and issues constraining electricity and LPG (cooking gas) supply by utilities to urban poor populations.
  - a. Measures/programs put in place by various companies to increase energy access to urban poor
  - b. Challenges to meeting measures/programs
2. To recommend measures to facilitate energy access for the urban poor.

Mr. Jared Otuke AFREPREN/FWD staff welcomed participants for the meeting and then proceeded to a round of introduction. He then gave a brief introduction of AFREPREN/FWD and involvement of the participants in the GNESD study. Thereafter, AFREPREN/FWD presented key elements of Urban and Peri-Urban Access study. The presentation focused on the findings of previous UPEA studies while highlighting energy access issues of the study area – Kibera slum. AFREPREN/FWD, also, presented the demography characteristics of the study area, energy access levels and barriers identified. In addition, the participants were briefed on the past best practices initiatives by various stakeholder to enhance energy access within urban and peri-urban residents.

After this background presentation, participants were welcomed to share their views in a discussion moderated by AFREPREN/FWD.

The following is a brief overview of the discussions:

## **DISCUSSIONS**

### **Electricity Access**

Engineer Joseph Kungu a representative of Kenya Power, highlighted challenges faced by national utility company on electricity supply to urban slums in Nairobi. Illegal electricity connection is a common factor in Kibera that Kenya Power has over time had difficult to address. With illegal connections, electrical safety standards are compromised thus leading to a high rate of electricity-based fires and electrocution incidences. The power utility has made efforts to curb illegal connection, but often they are faced with hostile residents. The use police to curb illegal connections led a day-long violent confrontational battle with the authorities. In addition, Kibera has a number of electricity users who default in payment thus leading to disconnection by the utility.

In spite of these challenges the utility has introduced maximization programme where households within closer proximity to power lines and transformers pay lower connection fee. In addition, the utility had implemented pre-payment metering programme to make it easier for consumers to plan and pay for units of electricity commensurate to the amount of money they can set aside for electricity consumption. The pre-payment metering programme has not been that attractive to the Kibera residents, in which you find the few residents who have been connected are still by passing the meter hence ending up using the electricity free without paying.

The residents attending the policy dialogue confirmed there were challenges and electricity access was low in the Kibera. Some of the residents proposed to the utility representative, the need to use the existing administrative network and grassroots political wings to sensitize Kibera residents on benefits and hazards of electricity. This would create awareness also, on legal electricity connections and cost-effective connection options such as pre-payment metering being implemented by the utility. Thus involvement of residents is useful to addressing electricity connection challenges such as organized hostile residents.

In regard to energy access for the urban poor, the participants agreed the government has a role to play. Especially in electricity access by formulating policies that will favour access within urban poor areas.

### **LPG Access**

Mr. Kilion O. Olang the Retailer Manager of Uchumi Supermarket, Ngong Road, pointed out that the supermarket as LPG stockist is faced with compliance challenges. This is on the issue of multi-national oil companies slowly complying with requirement of universal regulator for LPG cylinders. In addition, there is lack of awareness on the consumer side regarding implementation of universal regulator use.

Regarding consumer confidence on weight of LPG cylinders, the supermarket has put in place weighing scale at the receiving point of cylinders to ensure there are no over-filled or under-filled cylinders. The supermarket has a dedicated shop attendant who solely checks the LPG cylinders and if faulty they are

not accepted, or they are isolated and replaced. In addition, the supermarket ensures LPG safety standards are adhered to as well as creating LPG safety awareness to its customers. The supermarket stocks various gas brands and LPG gas cookers that vary in pricing according to the manufacturer and in suitable sizes to different household needs, though with the introduction of the universal regulator consumers get to exchange their LPG cylinder with any of the gas brands that have complied to the law.

Mr. Kilion, also mentioned that re-introduction of the 3kg cylinders by multi-national oil companies would enhance LPG access among the urban poor due to the low income levels. This would have positive impact as compared to the implementation of universal regulator standard by multi-national oil companies, that Mr. Kilion pointed it had increased LPG sales by sixty (60) percent.

Halima, a resident of Kibera brought to the attention of panelists that Kibera residents are wary of the LPG safety due fire outbreaks in slums. She also added that residents perceive it expensive for them to travel a distance by bus to refill LPG cylinders as compared to easy-to-reach energy sources such as charcoal or kerosene. For those residents willing to use LPG, they are sometimes victims of unscrupulous suppliers of under-filled cylinders who compete with fewer genuine LPG stockists in Kibera. Therefore, the participants agreed it would be useful for the supermarket to consider expanding its LPG stockist outlet in Kibera and tap on the existing demand whilst providing authentic sales service of LPG cylinders.

## **CONCLUSION**

The dialogue concluded with a call from AFREPREN/FWD, urging all participants to collaborate with different stakeholders in a progressive way and work together to identify options for addressing the challenges faced in accessing modern energy in both Urban and Peri-Urban areas. The participants' were commended for their active involvement in the discussions and encouraged to continue close cooperation and collaboration in tackling the key problem of ensuring that low-income urban and peri-urban households of Nairobi can access affordable and safe modern energy services.

## APPENDICES

### Appendix I: Agenda



# AFREPREN/FWD

Energy, Environment and Development Network for Africa

## Policy Dialogue Panel on Urban and Peri-Urban Energy Access

Date: Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> October 2011

Time: 2:30pm to 4:30pm

Venue: AFREPREN/FWD OFFICES, ELGEYO MARAKWET CLOSE, KILIMANI, NAIROBI

Time	Activity
2:30 pm – 2:50 pm	Welcome by AFREPREN/FWD and Introduction of Panelists
2:50 pm – 3:20 pm	Introduction to Energy Access for the Urban Poor <i>(Thematic Presentation on UPEA Study by AFREPREN/FWD)</i>
3:20 pm – 4:10 pm	Discussion by Panelists <i>(Moderated by AFREPREN/FWD)</i>
4: 10 pm – 4:20 pm	Way Forward <i>(Moderated by AFREPREN/FWD)</i>
4: 20 pm onwards	Tea

### Discussion Points - for Open Discussion by Panelists

- How have the existing energy supply agencies enhanced energy access to the urban slum population?
- What programs/strategies have been launched to improve energy supply to urban slum households?
- What are the challenges in enabling modern energy services access in urban areas (Kibera)
- What is the best method or approach to delivering clean energy access systems to urban slum residents?
- Are there barriers to implementation of projects/ programs/strategies on energy access to urban slum areas? (e.g. physical / technical / institutional / policy / financial barriers)
  - a) Supply side barriers
  - b) Demand side barriers
- How can these barriers be addressed by the parties involved e.g. government and energy supply agencies?

## Appendix II: List of Participants

Serial Number	Name	Organization
1.	Mr. Joseph Kungu	Engineer- Kenya Power
2.	Ms.Halima Dube	Student - University of Nairobi
3.	Ms. Yusuf Siama	Business Person – Kibera resident
4.	Ms.Fatuma Abubakar	Community Worker – Kibera resident
5.	Mr.Kilion O. Olang	Retail Manager, Uchumi Supermarket- Ngong Road
6.	Mr. Albert Chepkwony	Shop Attendant, Uchumi Supermarket - Ngong Road
7.	Mr. Muhindi *	Branch Manager, Uchumi Supermarket - Ngong Road
8.	Mr. Amar S.*	Managing Director, Shell Kenya Ltd – Adams Arcade Petrol Station
9.	Mr. Peter Wanjiru Kinyanjui *	Stewan Gen Trading Company -Ngong Road
10.	Mr.Wahwai *	Supervisor, Westend Petroleum Ltd – Kibera Petrol Station
11.	Mr. Stephen Karekezi	Director, AFREPREN/FWD
12.	Ms. Agnes Naluwagga	AFREPREN/FWD
13.	Mr. David Muange	AFREPREN/FWD
14.	Mr. Jared Otuke	AFREPREN/FWD
15.	Mr. Benedict Muyale	AFREPREN/FWD
16.	Mr. Stephen Mutiso	AFREPREN/FWD
17.	Ms. Massa Phiona	AFREPREN/FWD

Note \* Invited but regretted

**Appendix III: Photographs from Meeting**



**Panelists during the policy dialogue meeting**



**AFREPREN/FWD making presentation to participants**



**Participants discussing**



**Mr. Jared Otuke chairing the open discussion**



**Ms. Halima, a resident of Kibera sharing a point**



**Participants taking notes during the meeting**