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ANNEX 12

to the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the multiannual action plan in favour of Sub-Saharan Africa for 2022 Part 2

Action Document for “Regional Clean Cooking Action in West Africa (ReCCAWA)”

MULTIANNUAL PLAN

This document constitutes the multiannual work programme within the meaning of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation, within the meaning of Article 23 of the NDICI-Global Europe Regulation.

1. SYNOPSIS

1.1 Action Summary Table

1. Title CRIS/OPSYS business reference Basic Act	Regional Clean Cooking Action in West Africa (ReCCAWA) OPSYS/CRIS number: ACT-61419 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (<u>NDICI-Global Europe</u>)
2. Team Europe Initiative	Yes Africa-EU Green Energy Initiative (AEGEI)
3. Zone benefiting from the action	The action shall be carried out in West Africa.
4. Programming document	Multi-annual indicative programme (MIP) for sub-Saharan Africa for 2021-2027
5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives / expected results	Environmental and climate resilience This Action will contribute to the regional priority area 3 of the MIP “Green Transition” and to its specific objective 2 “Support the development of an efficient, sustainable and resilient African energy sector”; and aims at contributing to the Result area R.2.3: “Increased access to affordable, reliable clean and sustainable energy services for households (including for clean cooking), social services and productive uses”.
PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION	
6. Priority Area(s), sectors	Priority Area 3 - Green Transition
7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Main SDG: SDG 7 Affordable and clean energy (Ensure access for all to reliable, sustainable and modern energy services at an affordable cost) Other significant SDGs: SDG 13 Fight against climate change; SDG 15 Life on land; SDG 3 Good health and well-being; SDG 5 Gender equality; SDG 8 Decent work and economic growth
8a) DAC code(s)	DAC 23110 - Energy policy and administrative management
8b) Main Delivery Channel	40000 – Multilateral Organisations

9. Targets	<input type="checkbox"/> Migration <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender <input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Governance			
10. Markers (from DAC form)	General policy objective @	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Trade development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Disaster Risk Reduction @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Nutrition @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Biological diversity @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	11. Internal markers and Tags	Policy objectives	Not targeted	Significant objective
Digitalisation @		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
digital connectivity digital governance digital entrepreneurship digital skills/literacy digital services		YES <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	/
Connectivity @		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
digital connectivity energy transport health		YES <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	/

	education and research			
	Migration @ (methodology for tagging under development)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reduction of Inequalities @ (methodology for marker and tagging under development)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Covid-19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BUDGET INFORMATION				
12. Amounts concerned	<p>Budget line(s) (article, item): BGUE-B2023-14.020120-C1-INTPA</p> <p>Total estimated cost: EUR 12 000 000</p> <p>Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 12 000 000</p> <p>The contribution is for an amount of EUR 12 000 000 from the general budget of the European Union for 2023, subject to the availability of appropriations for the respective financial years following the adoption of the relevant annual budget, or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths.</p> <p>Discussions are on-going on possible co-financing of the Action through joint or parallel contribution by EU Member States, inter alia the Netherlands and France.</p>			
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION				
13. Type of financing	<p>Indirect management with the entity to be selected in accordance with the criteria set out in section 4.4.1.</p> <p>The contribution to the African Investment Platform (AIP) shall be implemented in indirect management by the entities indicated in the Appendix 2 to this Action Document, in accordance with the Regional Blending Platform’s award procedure.</p> <p>Indirect management with an International Organisation.</p>			

1.2 Summary of the Action

The West African market of cooking solutions is still fragmented, dominated by low-efficiency biomass cook-stoves and driven mostly by small and informal stove and fuel producers and distributors. This comes with major negative socio-economic, health, gender and environmental impacts.

Despite the effort and goodwill from national, regional, international and stakeholders, the sector is hampered by policy, regulatory, institutional, capacity and finance barriers preventing the scaling-up of the promotion and adoption of clean cooking energy solutions. Very few past and ongoing interventions have considered the potential of the regional dimension of market development to attract private enterprises to West Africa.

The proposed Regional Action on Clean Cooking aims to increase and sustain the access to clean, efficient, sustainable and affordable cooking energy solutions¹ in West Africa by strengthening the clean cooking enabling framework at regional and national scales, by proposing innovative financing and market-based approaches, adapted to the region that will scale up the supply, dissemination and adoption of clean cooking solutions, and by

¹ Cooking solutions are defined as the combination of stoves and fuels. Clean cooking solutions are those meeting the WB Multi-Tier guidelines for efficiency, health and safety. They include Sustainable Cooking Solutions (i.e. those based on ethanol, wood pellets, biogas, renewables) and other clean cooking solutions (including electricity, LPG, etc.). None of the above solutions are a priori excluded from the current Action, which will investigate needs of WA States' needs in Clean Cooking on a case by case basis..

creating and disseminating evidence-based data, knowledge, and impact evaluation, critical to the good governance of the sector and its market uptake. The Action is fully aligned with regional and national policies and strategies.

The theory of change underpinning the Action is that a *regional* approach can accelerate the access to clean cooking solutions through enabling private sector engagement thanks to a higher confidence and higher market potential allowing for economies of scale, better coordination of stakeholders and donors to leverage synergies and reduce duplication of efforts, and through tailor-made interventions per country or group of countries under a coherent regional Action.

This Action will contribute to the regional priority area 3 of the MIP “Green Transition” and to its specific objective 2 “Support the development of an efficient, sustainable and resilient African energy sector”. The action will also actively contribute to pillar 3 of the Great Green Wall initiative “*Climate resilient infrastructures and access to renewable energy*”.

The implementation of the Action will contribute towards achieving SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) as well as SDG 3 (Good Health), SDG 5 (Gender), SDG 8 (Decent work and Economic Growth), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG15 (Life on land).

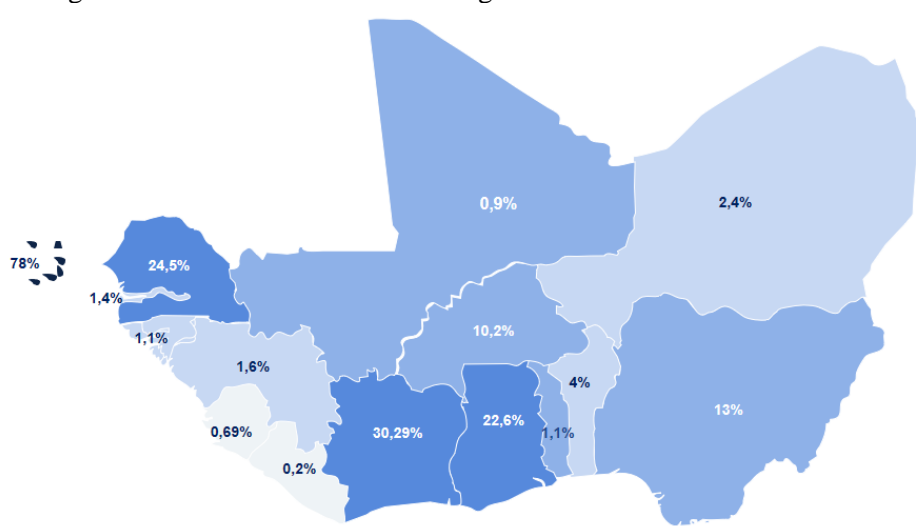
2. RATIONALE

2.1 Context

The low access to clean cooking and its negative impacts

More than 310 million persons in West Africa still use traditional biomass (solid fuels such as wood, charcoal, animal dung and crop residues) for cooking and heating, with high disparities between rural (26%) and urban areas (74%)², as well as between countries. Less than 1% in Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali or Sierra Leone to 78% in Cabo Verde have access to clean cooking solutions (see Figure 1).

Figure 1. Access rate to clean cooking solutions in ECOWAS countries³



The region’s over-reliance on solid biomass fuels to meet its energy needs combined with the traditional cooking solutions used, lies among the factors that make the population highly vulnerable to climate change effects and comes with major negative socio-economic, health, gender and environmental impacts:

- significant time spent in fuel collection and cooking, mostly by women and girls;
- high burden of energy access on household budget when cooking fuel must be purchased;

² IEA (2021)

³ Adapted from data collected in the ECOWAS baseline study (2021)

- 153,000 premature deaths per year in the region related to household air pollution from dirty cooking solutions, most of them women and children⁴;
- additional pressure on biodiversity loss, desertification, deforestation and forest and land degradation due to overharvesting of wood, especially when coupled with inefficient charcoal production; 42% of the biomass used for cooking and heating is considered non-renewable, adding to the 85% loss of the original forest surface in the region⁵;
- contribution to greenhouse gas emissions through deforestation and emissions of black carbon, which is both a greenhouse gas and a toxic air pollutant.

In addition to the above, the number of persons without access continues to rise significantly in Sub-Saharan Africa due to **demographic trends**⁶.

The covid-19 pandemic has adversely impacted the sector by reducing household capacity-to-pay for fuels, increasing the vulnerability and the exposure of households to air pollution, and by disrupting clean cooking supply chains.

A fragmented market dominated by biomass-based cooking solutions and small businesses

The West African market of cooking solutions remains fragmented and dominated by low-efficiency biomass cook-stoves. The majority of the stove and fuel production and distribution is non-standardised, and relies on artisanal producers and distributors, respectively. The most frequent stoves available locally, apart from traditional stoves, are improved clay or metallic stoves, cook-stoves with ceramic insert and metal coating. The deployment of clean cooking solutions such as liquified petroleum gas (LPG), bioethanol, biogas, electricity remains very limited in West Africa, with the exception of LPG. Very few well-structured and professional private actors or enterprises are active in West Africa, beyond LPG suppliers. A very limited number of international manufacturers are present, mostly in Ghana, Nigeria. Several of them are exploring the possibilities to enter or strengthen their presence in other countries of the region, motivated by the possibility to extend their activities to more countries in the future if market conditions are favourable.

A Regional Action well-aligned with regional aspirations

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has adopted policies to promote renewable energy and energy efficiency at regional level, including a Renewable Energy Policy (EREP), an Energy Efficiency Policy (EEEP), a Bioenergy Policy. These policies are translated in National Action Plans by the ECOWAS Member States.

The West Africa Clean Cooking Alliance (WACCA) is an initiative launched back in 2012 to achieve universal access to clean cooking solutions by 2030 in the ECOWAS region by coordinating regional and national actions, more particularly through policy and capacity-building. Supported by WACCA, half of the Member States have validated their Clean Cooking National Action Plans, which however need to be revised and remain to be operationalised.

Clean cooking targets are found either in the National Clean Cooking Action Plans of the ECOWAS Member States, and/or in the SE4ALL Action Agenda and/or in the countries' National Determined Contributions - NDCs (seven West African states have clean cooking as a component of their climate mitigation and adaptation strategies in their NDCs). Seven West African countries (Benin, Cabo Verde, The Gambia, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria and Sierra Leone) engaged in achieving universal access to a mix of improved and clean cooking solutions by 2030, while the rest of the ECOWAS Member States set goals at more than 75% of their population getting access to a mix of improved and clean cooking solutions by 2030.

Some countries have implemented formal or informal national alliances to mobilise and represent the sector (Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria, The Gambia,). At regional level, draft standards for cook-stoves have been elaborated, while in some countries national standards or labels for cook-stoves are being implemented (Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal). Only four West African countries, namely Burkina

⁴ Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation (2017)

⁵ International Union for the Conservation of Nature and UNDP (2015)

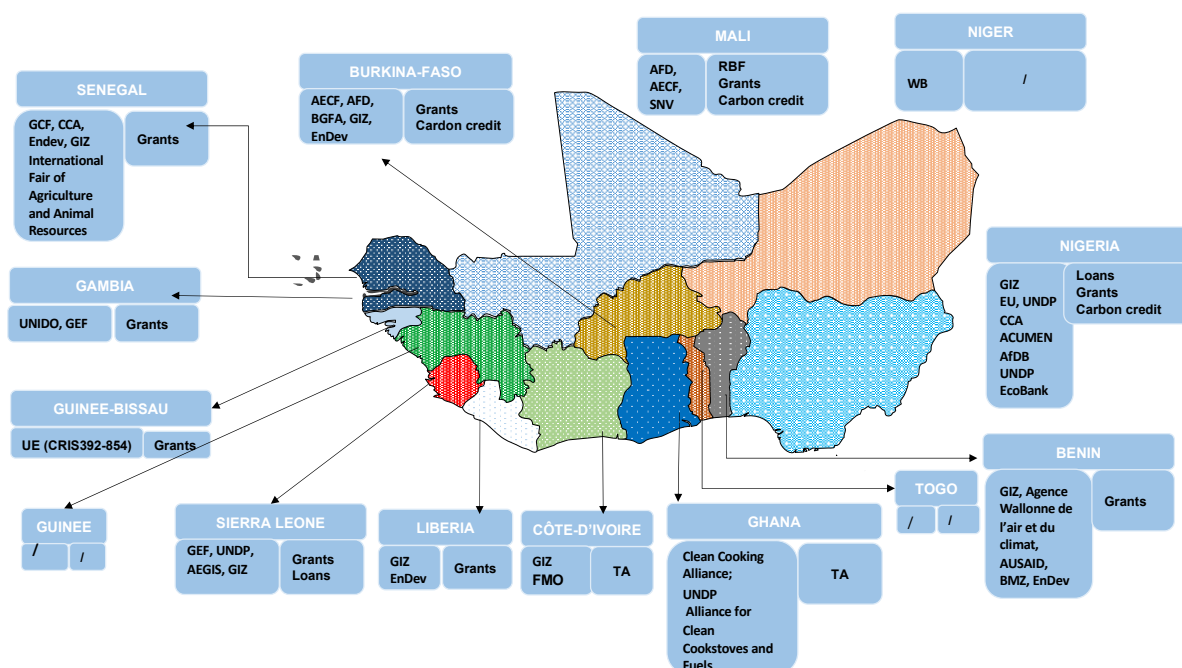
⁶ IEA, World Energy Outlook-2021, based on WHO Household Energy Database and IEA World Energy Balances (2021)

Faso, Ghana, Nigeria and Senegal host well-equipped testing facilities. Finally, fiscal incentives for clean cooking are scarce in the region, these being mostly limited to LPG.

A series of international initiatives

The renewed interest in clean cooking has spawned a series of international initiatives by technical and financial partners in West Africa (Figure 2). Most of them are nationally focused. This Action aims at maximising synergies, with a view to leveraging impact in the sector building on what is already at place.

Figure 2. Map of technical and financial partners involved in the clean cooking sector in West Africa (based on TAF expert knowledge) - "/" means no data



Further to the above interventions, in the current programming period, another regional action “Support regional centres of Excellence related to Green transition sectors” which is pertinent to the objectives of this action, is under preparation. This Action will be in close coordination with the action mentioned above in order to ensure complementarity and optimise results.

2.2 Problem Analysis

Lack of capacity and conducive policy, regulatory and institutional framework

The lack of capacities spans across all the stakeholders (government/institutional, private business and financial sectors, consumers, civil society, etc.). Furthermore, most actors are not aware of opportunities offered by technological and business innovations in the clean cooking sector, due to lack of sufficient knowledge and data. Finally, regulatory instruments such as fiscal incentives (well-targeted subsidies, exemption of duty tax or VAT) and quality standards and labels are still lacking. Moreover, the coordination among stakeholders is insufficient. As a consequence, advancement with reaching the ambitious objectives of clean cooking for 2030, as stipulated in the West African Member States agendas, lags significantly behind.

Lack of market-based and coordinated approach

Most of the countries have a long history of promoting improved and clean cooking solutions. However, they were not anchored in a sufficiently strong market-based approach, while past interventions have rarely considered the potential of the regional dimensions of market development to attract new private enterprises to West Africa. This led to fragmented, usually not sustainable interventions and general fatigue of most stakeholders, affecting their resilience. Moreover, capitalisation, monitoring and sharing of knowledge, experiences and lessons learnt are too

limited to allow for successful market-based business models' uptake and for an evidence-based coordination of action.

Lack of access to finance for supply, distribution and demand sides of the market

The highly informal nature of the private sector in West Africa and in the clean cooking sector in particular, characterised by low margins and inefficient supply chain, makes it challenging for the market to grow. Moreover, many local enterprises lack capacities to prepare well-structured financing requests and marketing strategies, this rendering due diligence processes and reporting requirements challenging for them.

Commercial banks usually offer high rates lending and step in only when the ticket size of the investment is large enough, or when the business model is well proven, the company has reached a certain level of maturity and has assets that can be used as collateral. Few enterprises of the clean cooking sector fit these requirements. Moreover, the financial institutions usually lack familiarity with the cooking sector, that they perceive as far too risky, while they often consider wood fuel as a "dirty" fuel that should be abandoned. In contrast, Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) of the LPG sector, although not always well-capitalised, are more likely to attract investors, mostly because the LPG distribution model is proven, well understood by commercial investors and supported by governmental incentives, contrary to biomass stoves.

Microfinance institutions (MFIs) and credits/loans associations are generally the first lenders that SMEs approach. However, MFIs typically offer loans with short tenors, high interest rates and limited commitment to the growth of their clients. Moreover, they represent a very small amount of money being spread to the sector compared to the financing needs. MFIs remain instrumental in providing financing for last-mile distribution and to customers, thanks to their presence in the rural areas and experience working with small loan sizes.

Crowdfunding is still limited but it is gaining ground and it deserves attention for the clean cooking sector. It can be a source of lending for clean cooking companies that might struggle to raise funds elsewhere since the majority of crowd lenders are driven by environmental and social impact rather than financial returns.

Impact investment remains small compared to the size of the market but some West African countries, like Nigeria, attract an increased interest from impact investors.

Climate finance, more particularly carbon markets, can be game-changing to promote business growth, and nearly all the most successful cook-stove manufacturers and distributors have benefited from carbon credits, despite the risks associated with carbon markets. However, additional technical expertise and financial resources are needed for most of enterprises to access this type of finance.

Finally, the lack of market data and knowledge by the financial sector contributes in weak capacities to assess risks and business opportunities of the clean cooking sector. This results in low investment decisions hampering catalytic investments from public sector, a poor governance and consequently a limited engagement from the private sector.

Lack of equal entrepreneurship opportunities in the energy sector in general and clean cooking in particular

Female-headed businesses, on average, have a reduced ability to invest in productivity enhancing energy assets. Women energy entrepreneurs have been shown to have more limited information about distant markets and opportunities, constrained business networks, and resulting smaller businesses⁷.

Identification of main stakeholders and corresponding institutional and/or organisational issues (mandates, potential roles, and capacities) to be covered by the Action:

Regional entities

- ECOWAS: The Economic Community of West African States Commission is the highest political and economic body in the region, setting the tone for inter-border trade and free movement of people and goods.

⁷ Source http://www.ecowrex.org/system/files/ecowas_policy_for_gender_mainstreaming_in_energy_access.pdf.

The role of the Commission will be primordial in policy and regulatory frameworks (trade, fiscal incentives, standards and labels, etc.) as directives issued by ECOWAS are directly executable by all its Member States.

- ECREEE: Specialised agency of the ECOWAS, mandated to promote renewable energy and energy efficiency. ECREEE is at the forefront of pushing the sustainable energy agenda in the region, in collaboration with West African Power Pool (WAPP) and the ECOWAS Regional Energy Regulatory Authority (ERERA).

Government entities - Duty bearers

- Energy ministries: energy ministries define energy policies and regulation for the country in line with ECOWAS Directives. They would be involved throughout the process, since they are the ones endorsing (at Ministerial level) and adopting at ECOWAS Council of Ministers' level Policy papers.
- Finance ministries: these ministries allocate budgets to within-country programs, including enforcement, program operation and subsidies. Tax and tariff breaks need also to be approved by them. Consequently, any incentives adoption and implementation will directly depend on them.
- Health ministries: these government entities are allies in data collection (i.e. to understand the costs and benefits of clean cooking programs) and are uniquely positioned to promote clean cooking products through their health facilities and professionals.
- Environment and sustainable development ministries: the environmental impact of cooking (greenhouse gases emissions, forest degradation and related biodiversity loss, etc.) calls for strong coordination with these ministries throughout the process. These ministries can also leverage and allocate funds to the clean cook-stove sector.
- Utilities: Any clean cooking strategy involving gas (natural or liquefied petroleum) or electricity will require strong coordination with these companies wherever they exist.
- National statistical services: Responsible for national surveys and census, these entities can provide platforms to monitor and evaluate the progress towards achieving programme's goals.
- Other sectoral ministries (agriculture, forestry, gender, etc.) can contribute to a sustained deployment of clean cooking solutions associated to other sectoral strategies and to a better understanding of the multiple dimensions of clean cooking strategies.

Consumers - Right holders

- Consumers include households, institutions/hospitals/schools (canteens), restaurants, small commercial activities (bakeries, fish smoking, etc.). Customer segmentation is critical to understand which products, messages, and points of sale will be best to achieve purchase and adoption outcomes.

Fuel and stove manufacturers and distributors - Private sector

- Existing and new fuel and cook-stove manufacturers and distributors cover diverse cooking solutions and services, the quality and appropriateness of which to consumer needs are crucial as to the rapid and massive penetration of improved and clean cooking solutions. The characteristics and specific needs of suppliers (manufacturers and distributors) must also be well understood. For instance, a manufacturer may need tariff abatements on raw materials, while the distributor that offers credit may need working capital financing under soft conditions. Charcoal and fuelwood producers can be important stakeholders to reduce biomass use and improve the sustainability of ligneous fuels.

Financial institutions (FI)

- Commercial banks, microfinance institutions (MFIs) and credit and savings cooperatives: These institutions can offer credit for the purchase of cook-stoves and for this reason are often a first stop of cook-stove distributors. However, the price of improved and clean cook-stoves may be below the amount of a profitable credit line, and engaging these institutions in improved and clean cook-stove sales can be complex. Credit and savings cooperatives generally offer higher degrees of flexibility than MFIs. Savings and credit groups can also offer venues for demonstration and distribution of improved and clean cooking solutions.
- Women's self-help groups: These groups offer demonstration hubs and can be used to channel consumer finance through rotating savings groups. In West Africa, they serve as an important point of sale for many goods such as improved and clean cook-stoves.
- Local authorities: They represent an opportunity to mobilise local financing to the sector.
- Crowdfunding platforms: Crowdfunding for clean cooking is still relatively small but promising.
- Development Financing Institutions (DFIs): By investing in underserved sectors and taking a long-run approach that permits higher risks, they can contribute to de-risk small ticket size investments.

Other:

- Community-based Organisations (CBO), employers, solar kits distributors, and other relevant institutions can serve as distributors and sales catalysts by providing the quorum to demonstrate and legitimise improved and clean cooking solutions and by bundling cooking solutions with other products and services.

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

The Overall Objective (Impact) of this Action is to increase access to affordable, reliable clean and sustainable energy services for clean cooking.

The Specific(s) Objective(s) (Outcomes) of this Action are:

- Specific Objective 1: To render the enabling framework at regional and national scales more supportive to the market uptake of efficient and clean cooking solutions.
- Specific Objective 2: To apply innovative financing and promote business models that will increase the supply and dissemination of clean and efficient cooking solutions in West Africa.
- Specific Objective 3: To increase the users of clean and efficient cooking solutions.
- Specific Objective 4: To increase the collection of data (sex disaggregated when applicable) and the production of evidence-based knowledge contributing to the governance of the West African cooking sector.

The Outputs to be delivered by this Action contributing to the corresponding Specific Objectives (Outcomes) are:

- Output 1.1. contributing to Outcome 1/Specific Objective 1: Policies and institutional (legal and regulatory) framework are developed/revised and submitted for adoption at regional and national level (as appropriate)
- Output 1.2 contributing to Outcome 1/Specific Objective 1: Implementation of policies and institutional (legal and regulatory) framework newly adopted are supported in a number of countries.
- Output 2.1. contributing to Outcome 2/Specific Objective 2: Innovative financing is set up and replicable/scalable business models are promoted.
- Output 3.1. contributing to Outcome 3/Specific Objective 3: Awareness of consumers of the existence and benefits of clean and efficient cooking solutions is increased.
- Output 4.1. contributing to Outcome 4/Specific Objective 4: Data (sex disaggregated when applicable), impact evaluation, knowledge and lessons learnt are available and disseminated.

3.2 Indicative Activities

Activities related to Output 1.1. Policies and institutional (legal and regulatory) framework are developed/revised and submitted for adoption at regional and national levels (as appropriate)

- Support the drafting/revision (as appropriate) of Regional and National Clean Cooking Action Plans.
- Submit validated Regional and National Clean Cooking Action Plans for adoption.
- Support the drafting/revision (as appropriate) of quality standards and labels⁸, harmonised at regional level.
- Submit for adoption validated quality standards and labels, harmonised at regional level.
- Create and support existing multi-stakeholder platforms at regional level and in pilot countries, to strengthen the representation of the clean cooking sector and the coordination of the regional and national policy implementation.

Activities related to Output 1.2. Implementation of policies and institutional (legal and regulatory) framework newly adopted are supported in a number of countries

⁸ While the aim is to have standards aligned with international standards, labels must be adapted to the local context, e.g. be simpler and based on only part of the characteristics proposed by ISO recommendations.

- Selection of pilot countries where the implementation of adopted policies and institutional (legal and regulatory) framework can take place.
- Selection of pilot countries where the implementation of adopted quality standards and labels can take place.
- Support to the implementation of adopted policies and institutional (legal and regulatory) framework
- Support to the implementation of adopted quality standards and labels
- Create and/or support selected existing testing centres for quality control and insurance, with a view to their regional harmonisation and mutual recognition.

Activities related to Output 2.1. Innovative financing is set up and replicable/scalable business models are promoted

- Support entrepreneurship across the entire supply chain, including through customised coaching, business advisory, training, and innovation assistance to improve and scale up the business models of stoves' and fuels' manufacturers and distributors and increase their access to finance (including innovative financing schemes like climate finance, public-private partnership (PPP), crowdfunding).
- Provide de-risking and financial mechanisms, tailored to the context and not excluding results-based finance (RBF), to advance technical and business innovation in high-impact pilot-projects, and to scale up activities with scalable business models across the value chain (suppliers, distributors, consumers).
- Build capacities and provide tools to local financial institutions and authorities to mobilise local financing to the sector.

Activities related to Output 3.1 Awareness of consumers of the existence and benefits of clean and efficient cooking solutions and ability-to-pay is increased

- Design and support awareness campaigns that spread knowledge about and bring clean cooking into consideration as aspirational technologies.
- Engage in activities towards behavioural change by means of social activation methodologies.
- Provide consumer incentives, including by means of results-based finance, on-wage payment, top-up credits, etc. either at company or at consumer level to improve ability to pay for households.

Activities related to Output 4.1 Data (sex disaggregated when applicable), impact evaluation, knowledge and lessons learnt are available and disseminated

- Conduct/update studies, as appropriate (such as market segmentation, fiscal instruments, standards and labels, biomass sustainability analysis, gender sectoral analysis, etc.) to fill knowledge gaps and support the sustained development of the sector.
- Implement a systematic impact evaluation of the cooking solutions and business models, including social impact evaluation with focus on gender, to ensure a common understanding of lessons learnt and to facilitate the replication of successful models.
- Build and operationalise a regional information system on cooking data, within the existing Energy Information System West Africa.
- Create mechanisms for sharing knowledge, lessons learnt and expertise.

3.3 Mainstreaming

Environmental Protection & Climate Change

The Action contributes to climate change mitigation by reducing greenhouse gas and black carbon emissions resulting from the use of solid fuels for cooking. Furthermore, it will contribute to reducing the pressure on the degradation of forests and the loss of biodiversity resulting from use of non-sustainably harvested wood, while it will contribute to the Great Green Wall Initiative.

Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls

As per the OECD Gender DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this Action is labelled as G1. This means that the activities of the Action will take into consideration the increased impact of traditional cooking solutions on women and ensure this is addressed by due measures in practical terms, including through the promotion of special regulatory provisions. In all cases, by improving cooking conditions, the Action is particularly addressing women and children's disproportional exposure to the negative effects of traditional and inefficient cooking methods

(health effects of smoke, time and hardness of collecting wood fuel and cooking tasks.). Amongst others, the Action will align with the ECOWAS Policy for Mainstreaming Gender in Energy Access. The Action will contribute to the Gender Action Plan III (GAP III) ⁹and especially to thematic area of engagement “addressing the challenges and harnessing the opportunities offered by the green transition”.

Human Rights

The Action will ensure respect for human rights in all the activities it supports. The Action will respect the five Human Rights Based approach principles: all human rights, participation, non-discrimination, accountability, and transparency. In addition, the action will implement the principles of no one left behind, do not harm and will encourage the private sector to respect the guiding principles on Business and Human Rights.

Disability

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D0. This implies that aspects related to disability do not appear as an aspect likely to be considered by the Action.

Democracy

The Action will improve the mobilisation, training and access to information of stakeholders, including civil society. The Action will support the development, availability and dissemination of new knowledge that will facilitate decision-making on regional and national public strategies, enable better communication on these issues and strengthen the role of all actors, including the private sector and civil society in the development of the sector. It will strengthen regional coordination, inter-ministerial cooperation and improve governance in the sector.

Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience

This aspect is not specifically targeted by the Action. However, through the Action focus on enabling (local) SMEs involvement in the distribution, assembly, production and services in the supply chain of clean cooking options, local employment and economic growth will benefit from the interventions. Besides, the use of cleaner cooking methods will contribute to the improvement of living conditions, which in combination with the above contribute to better social cohesion and therefore to peace and stability.

Disaster Risk Reduction

The Action will contribute to reduce the climate change effects risks associated with deforestation (including flooding risks).

3.4 Risks and Lessons Learnt

Category	Risks	Likelihood (High/Medium/Low)	Impact (High/Medium/Low)	Mitigating measures
2	Lack of political will and ownership	Medium	High	Activities entail strong mobilisation and dialogue with stakeholders.
1	COVID-19	Low	High	The lessons learnt during the pandemic allow for the design of the activities in a way that adverse conditions during a potential new COVID outbreak can be efficiently compensated (remote working, virtual trainings combined with a realistic implementation timeline with buffers).
2	Implementation delays due to procedures	High	Medium	The chronogram will be overseen by the project team in order to prevent delays. The implementing agencies will be familiar with EU procedures. In addition, outcomes have been designed with knowledge of the region capacities, while activities will have realistic implementation timeline with buffers.

⁹ JOIN(2020) 17 final of 25.11.2020

3	During the transition, possible competition between cheaper traditional products and more expensive clean cooking may arise	High	High	Consumer incentives that are included in the action aim at tackling this risk.
3	Low capacity to pay and low interest of consumers in clean cooking	Medium	Medium	Awareness raising, technical innovation and finance support will help making clean cooking solutions understood, more attractive and affordable.
3	Lack of capacity across all the stakeholders (government/institutional, private business and financial sectors, consumers, civil society, etc.)	Medium	High	Capacity building activities are included under each Action component.
3	Lack of interest/capacities of existing private actors to engage into such transition	Low	High	Provide technical assistance and business coaching/hold awareness campaigns to forge demand and indirectly push for private sector interest.
3	Lack of interest of the financial sector	High	High	Activities are foreseen to focus on information and provision of investment risk analysis tools adapted to the cooking sector. Special capacity building components will be dedicated to address financial sector familiarisation with clean cooking investment opportunities.
1	Security, political unrest, terrorism	Medium	High	Security constraints will be considered when designing activities and selecting pilot countries.

Lessons Learnt:

Decades of intervention in the clean cooking sector in West Africa, have not sufficiently considered the regional scale in quality assurance, market development and sector mobilisation¹⁰. Focusing only on national interventions is not sufficient to accelerate the sector engagement over the long-term, mostly due to the lack of economies of scale. The lack of coordination between stakeholders and donors prevents from leveraging synergies and contributes to duplication of efforts and competition between stakeholders. ECREEE has initiated the basis of a regional intervention in clean cooking. This regional concept needs to be extended, consolidated and sustained, with a stronger partnership between the stakeholders and funders of the sector.

The lack of lessons learnt and of impact evaluation of initiatives, technology and business innovation prevents from significantly advancing in the sector. For example, climate finance and other results-based-finance mechanisms may attract only a very limited number of suppliers and distributors without a standardised and systematic outcome evaluation.

¹⁰ Conclusion of EU funded project "Support Energy Efficiency for Access in West Africa " (SEEA-WA), among other sources.

Activities cannot follow a “one-size” fits all approach. Tailor-made interventions per country or group of countries are critical given the diversity of local context and possible governmental priorities. At the same time, coordination of national interventions under a common Strategy is a prerequisite for achieving interoperability and economies of scale.

3.5 The Intervention Logic

The underlying intervention logic for this Action is that its regional dimension combined with four components on enabling environment, innovative finance mechanisms, awareness creation and quality data (sex disaggregated when applicable), respectively, will contribute to accelerate the deployment of clean cooking actions in West Africa. More in particular:

The *regional* approach can accelerate the access to clean cooking solutions through enabling private sector engagement, thanks to a higher confidence and higher market potential allowing for economies of scale, better coordination of stakeholders and donors to leverage synergies and reduce duplication of efforts, and through tailor-made interventions per country or group of countries under a coherent regional Action. The proposed Action will tackle both the regional and national scales of the clean cooking sector in a coordinated manner.

The *concerted support to the enabling environment* can lead to the desirable clean cooking market uptake. The Action will support the drafting of policies and institutional and regulatory framework and advance their implementation at regional level and in a number of countries (output 1.1). This includes fiscal measures, quality standards and labels, testing centers. The creation and/or support of existing multi-stakeholder platforms at regional level and in pilot countries, will address the need for strengthening the representation of the clean cooking sector and for coordinating action at regional and national level.

The *familiarisation of financing bodies with the sector* in combination with *enhanced capacity of local enterprises* to propose scalable business models and well-structured financing requests can both result in more appropriate and available finance for clean cooking. The Action will support entrepreneurship (technical assistance), provide de-risking and financial mechanisms and mobilise local financing for suppliers, distributors and consumers with special encouragement to women (output 2.1).

The *willingness and the ability-to-pay of consumers* can gradually promote clean and efficient cooking solutions to a mainstream approach across the region. The Action will support awareness campaigns and behavioral change activities, while it will also provide consumer incentives to facilitate the purchase and use of clean cooking solutions (output 3.1.).

Finally, the opportunity for *capitalisation, monitoring and sharing of data* (sex disaggregated when applicable), knowledge, experiences and lessons learnt can lead to a more conscious engagement of all stakeholders, including the public sector. The Action aims at the creation of an Information System of Clean Cooking data to allow for an evidence-based decision making, while it aims at systematic dissemination and sharing of knowledge, lessons learnt and expertise through the creation of appropriate mechanisms (B2B retreats, field visits, etc.). Finally, studies and impact evaluation (including social impact evaluation with focus on gender) will be the vehicles for producing the above input (output 4.1).

3.6 Logical Framework Matrix – to be confirmed and finetunes at the inception phase

This indicative logframe constitutes the basis for the monitoring, reporting and evaluation of the intervention.

On the basis of this logframe matrix, a more detailed logframe (or several) may be developed at contracting stage. In case baselines and targets are not available for the action, they should be informed for each indicator at signature of the contract(s) linked to this AD, or in the first progress report at the latest. New columns may be added to set intermediary targets (milestones) for the Output and Outcome indicators whenever it is relevant.

- At inception, the first progress report should include the complete logframe (e.g. including baselines/targets).
- Progress reports should provide an updated logframe with current values for each indicator.
- The final report should enclose the logframe with baseline and final values for each indicator.

The indicative logical framework matrix may evolve during the lifetime of the action depending on the different implementation modalities of this action.

The activities, the expected Outputs and related indicators, targets and baselines included in the logframe matrix may be updated during the implementation of the action, no amendment being required to the Financing Decision.

Results	Results chain (@): Main expected results (maximum 10)	Indicators (@): (at least one indicator per expected result)	Baselines (values and years)	Targets (values and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
Impact	To increase access to sustainable and/or clean energy	Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions avoided (tonnes CO ₂ eq) with EU support	tbd at the inception phase	tbd in the inception phase		<i>Not applicable</i>
Outcome 1	Enabling framework at regional and national scales are more supportive to the market uptake of efficient and clean cooking energy solutions	Status of newly adopted clean cooking policy and institutional (legal and regulatory) framework, including standards and labelling	tbd at the inception phase	<p>Endorsed ECOWAS Member States' Ministerial level</p> <p>Adopted by ECOWAS Council of Ministers</p> <p>Adopted by the ECOWAS Heads of States</p> <p>Implemented</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interim reports - ECOWAS Official documentation - National Official documentation - Policy validation workshop Reports 	<p>ECOWAS and its member states and Institutions are supportive of the Action</p> <p>ECOWAS member states and Institutions are willing to implement a regional Clean Cooking Policy</p> <p>Political and security situation allows implementation of the project</p>
Outcome 2	An innovative financing mechanism is set up and business models that increase the supply and dissemination of clean and efficient cooking solutions are promoted.	<p>Status of financial mechanism</p> <p>Status of business models financed by the Action</p> <p>Amount of finance obtained by the SMEs supported by the Action</p> <p>Number of SMEs financed by the Action</p>	tbd at the inception phase	tbd at the inception phase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interim reports - Financial institutions communication and reports - SMEs sales reports 	<p>Financial sector is willing to cooperate on clean cooking innovative financing</p> <p>Capacities of SMEs are successfully built to meet financial institutions due</p>

						<p>diligence standards</p> <p>Monitoring systems are in place to track data</p> <p>Political and security situation allow implementation of the project</p>
Outcome 3	Number of users of clean and efficient cooking solutions is increased.	Number of households using cleaner and more efficient cooking solutions in the targeted countries	tbd at the inception phase	tbd at the inception phase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interim reports - Communities questionnaires - SMEs sales reports 	<p>People show willingness to change their cooking habits</p> <p>Distributors are willing to include clean cooking solutions in their range of products</p> <p>Distributors are able to reach out to a significant number of communities</p> <p>Political and security situation allow implementation of the project</p>
Outcome 4	Collection of data is achieved and evidence-based knowledge is produced in order to inform decisions.	Status of statistical data in the sector of cooking	tbd at the inception phase	tbd at the inception phase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interim reports - Energy Information 	Political and security situation allow

		Number of knowledge products and platforms created			System Web Portal (EIS) - Knowledge sharing databases	implementation of the project Monitoring systems are in place to track data
Output 1 relating to Outcome 1	Policies and institutional (legal and regulatory) framework are developed/revised and submitted for adoption at regional and national levels (as appropriate)	<p>Number of Clean Cooking Actions Plans drafted/revised</p> <p>Number of Clean Cooking Actions Plans adopted</p> <p>Number of countries with quality standards and labels drafted/revised</p> <p>Number of countries with quality standards and labels adopted</p> <p>Number of multi-stakeholder platforms at regional level</p> <p>Number of pilot countries with a multi-stakeholder platform</p>	tbd at the inception phase	<p>Clean Cooking Regional and National Action Plans adopted across the ECOWAS region</p> <p>Quality standards and labels adopted in tbd Pilot countries</p> <p>Multi-stakeholder platforms created cover all 15 ECOWAS Member States</p>	<p>- Interim reports</p> <p>- ECOWAS Official documentation</p> <p>- National Official documentation</p> <p>- Policy validation workshop Reports</p> <p>- National Standards Agencies reports</p>	<p>Countries are willing to collaborate at the regional level</p> <p>National and regional frameworks are sufficiently well structured to allow their adaptation to clean cooking.</p>
Output 2 relating to Outcome 1	Policies and institutional (legal and regulatory) framework newly adopted are implemented in a number of countries	<p>Number of Clean Cooking Action Plans under implementation</p> <p>Number of countries with quality standards and labels under implementation</p>		National Clean Cooking Action Plans are implemented in tbd Pilot countries	<p>- ECOWAS Official documentation</p> <p>- National Official documentation</p> <p>- Activity report of the testing centres</p>	<p>Clean cooking is acknowledged as a priority at national level</p> <p>National budget is mobilised</p>

		<p>Number of supported regional centres for quality control and insurance</p> <p>Number of functioning and well-equipped regional centres for quality control and insurance</p> <p>Number of cooking solutions tested</p>		<p>Quality standards and labels are implemented in tbd Pilot countries</p> <p>Functioning and well-equipped regional centres for quality control and insurance in tbd Pilot countries</p>		
Output 1 relating to Outcome 2	Innovative financing is set up and replicable/scalable business models are promoted.	<p>Number of SMEs supported by the Action through customised coaching, business advisory, training, and innovation assistance</p> <p>Number of SMEs among the above, financed by the Action</p> <p>Number of SMEs among the above accessing innovative financing from other sources</p> <p>Number of SMEs accessing innovative financing set up by the Action (independently of any support through customised coaching, business advisory, training, and innovation assistance)</p> <p>Percentage of SMEs supported by the action that have</p>	tbd at the inception phase	tbd at the inception phase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interim Reports - ECOWAS reports - Training reports - Training participants' questionnaires - Financial institutions communication and reports 	SMEs are interested in participating in project and innovation calls

		<p>operational business by the end of the Action</p> <p>Clean and efficient cooking stoves produced</p> <p>Clean and efficient cooking stoves distributed</p>				
Output 1 relating to Outcome 3	Consumers awareness of the existence and benefits of clean and efficient cooking solutions and ability-to-pay is increased.	<p>Number of countries and districts where an awareness campaign is launched</p> <p>Number of people reached by the awareness campaigns</p> <p>Number of people benefiting from the incentives proposed</p>	tbd at the inception phase	tbd at the inception phase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interim Reports - Community questionnaires 	<p>Clean cooking solutions are adapted to the needs of the consumers</p> <p>Clean cooking solutions are available</p>
Output 1 relating to Outcome 4	Data, impact evaluation, knowledge and lessons learnt are available and disseminated.	<p>Number of studies (such as market segmentation, fiscal instruments, standards and labels, biomass sustainability analysis, gender sectoral analysis, etc.) in the sector conducted/updated</p> <p>Number of knowledge products created</p> <p>Availability of yearly data for the period 2020 - 2027</p> <p>Number of Member States providing data to the Cooking Information System</p>	tbd at the inception phase	tbd at the inception phase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interim reports - Energy Information System Web Portal (EIS) - Knowledge sharing databases 	<p>Stackeholders are willing to share data</p> <p>National efforts to collect data are maintained</p>

PROJECT MODALITY (3 levels of results/indicators/Source of Data/Assumptions - no activities)

4. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 Financing Agreement

In order to implement this Action, it is envisaged to conclude a financing agreement with ECOWAS.

4.2 Indicative Implementation Period

The indicative operational implementation period of this Action, during which the activities described in section 3 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 120 months from the entry into force of the financing agreement.

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's responsible authorising officer by amending this Financing Decision and the relevant contracts and agreements.

4.3 Implementation of the Budget Support Component

NA

4.4 Implementation Modalities

The Commission will ensure that the EU appropriate rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures¹¹.

4.4.1 Indirect Management with a pillar assessed entity

A part of this action may be implemented in indirect management with an entity, which will be selected by the Commission's services using the following criteria: (i) the entity is either a Member State Agency or an International Organisation or assimilated, (ii) it has experience in clean cooking and innovative financial support schemes in the sector, (iii) it has the operational capacity to implement the action (iv) it is not in a situation of conflict of interest.

The implementation by this entity entails Outputs 1 (1.1 and 1.2). *Support to policies and institutional (legal and regulatory) framework* and 3. *Awareness of consumers*, and part of Outputs 2. *Provision of de-risking and financial mechanisms* and 4. *Data and knowledge*.

4.4.2 Contribution to African Investment Platform (AIP)

This contribution may be implemented under indirect management with the entities called Lead Finance Institutions, identified in the appendix to this Action Document and concerns that part of Output 2 that foresees the provision of financing.

The action proposed by the entity/ies will be selected by the Commission's services using, inter alia, the following criteria: (i) extensive experience with the organisation and financing of related projects in developing countries; (ii) proven experience with the design and structuring of successful public finance instruments for the promotion of private investment in energy projects; (iii) intensive knowledge of capital markets in developing countries; (v) the entity will be willing to de-risk investments and/or provide on-lending finance to the relevant financing actors, which collaborate in the implementation of the supported delivery and finance modalities.

¹¹ www.sanctionsmap.eu. Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website it is the OJ version that prevails.

Alternatively, in cases where the size of investments is not attractive for DFIs for specific measures providing de-risking mechanisms to the clean cooking sector, in particular for delivering benefits to the most vulnerable population groups, women and youth, as well as in countries with challenging market environments such as those in the Sahel region and fragile states, indirect management with a pillar assessed entity will be applied in accordance with the implementation modalities and selection criteria identified in section 4.4.1.

4.4.3 Indirect Management with an International Organisation

A part of this action with the objective of Output 4. *Data (sex disaggregated when applicable), impact evaluation, knowledge and lessons learnt are available and disseminated* may be implemented in indirect management with ECOWAS, according to the following modalities:

The partner will act as contracting authority for the procurement and grant procedures. The Commission will control ex ante all the procurement and grant procedures.

Payments are executed by the Commission.

The partner shall apply the Commission's rules on procurement and grants. These rules will be laid down in the financing agreement to be concluded with the partner.

4.4.4 Changes from indirect to direct management mode (and vice versa) due to exceptional circumstances

Should the implementation through indirect management for the activities mentioned under point 4.4.3, reveal not possible due to circumstances outside of the Commission's control, the Commission will revert to the following alternative second option, entailing a change from indirect to direct management mode. In particular:

Grants (direct management)

(a) Purpose of the grant(s)

Output 4. *Data (sex disaggregated when applicable), impact evaluation, knowledge and lessons learnt are available and disseminated* - Build and operationalise a regional information system on cooking data, within the existing Energy Information System West Africa.

(b) Type of applicants targeted The Grant is intended as a direct award to the Economic Community of West African States, ECOWAS.

(c) Justification of a direct grant

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer, a grant may be directly awarded without a call for proposal, in compliance with Article 195(f) of the Financing Regulation, to ECOWAS which has been selected using the following criteria: (i) their specific technical competence; (ii) the entity has experience in implementing similar actions, (iii) the entity has the operational capacity for the implementation of the action (iv) the entity is not in a situation of conflict of interest.

More precisely, ECOWAS is currently in charge of building, operationalising and soon updating the Energy Information System West Africa under an on-going EU action. This Energy Information System needs to include cooking data, biomass being by far the first energy source consumed in the region. There is nowadays no entity other than ECOWAS in charge of operating such Energy system regionally, due to its mandate over the 15 West African Member States and the nature of the database which needs to include all sources of energy.

4.5. Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

The geographical eligibility in terms of place of establishment for participating in procurement and grant award procedures and in terms of origin of supplies purchased as established in the basic act and set out in the relevant contractual documents shall apply, subject to the following provisions.

The Commission's authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of services in the markets of the countries or territories concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where application of the eligibility rules would make the realisation of this Action impossible or exceedingly difficult (Article 28(10) NDICI-Global Europe Regulation).

4.6 Indicative Budget

Indicative Budget components	EU contribution (amount in EUR)
Implementation modalities – cf. section 4.4	
<p>Specific Objective 1 <i>“To render the enabling framework at regional and national scales more supportive to the market uptake of efficient and clean cooking solutions”</i> and</p> <p>Specific Objective 3. <i>“To increase the users of clean and efficient cooking solutions”</i>. and</p> <p>Part of Specific Objective 2 <i>“To apply innovative financing and promote business models that will increase the supply and dissemination of clean and efficient cooking solutions in West Africa”</i></p> <p>Part of Specific Objective 4. <i>“To increase the collection of data (sex disaggregated when applicable) and the production of evidence-based knowledge contributing to the governance of the West African cooking sector”</i></p> <p>Indirect Management with a pillar assessed entity - cf. section 4.4.1</p>	7 500 000
<p>Part of Specific Objective 2 <i>“To apply innovative financing and promote business models that will increase the supply and dissemination of clean and efficient cooking solutions in West Africa”</i></p> <p>Indirect Management with an entity called Lead Finance Institution - cf. section 4.4.2</p>	3 000 000
<p>Part of Specific Objective 4 <i>“To increase the collection of data (sex disaggregated when applicable) and the production of evidence-based knowledge contributing to the governance of the West African cooking sector”</i></p> <p>Indirect Management with a International organisation - cf. section 4.4.3</p>	1 000 000
<p>Evaluation – cf. section 5.2</p> <p>Audit – cf. section 5.3</p>	May be covered by another Financing Decision
Contingencies	500 000
Totals	12 000 000

4.7 Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

The activities will be implemented in indirect management.

A Steering Committee bringing together representatives of the EU, the implementing partners, the ECOWAS and the relevant regional institutions dealing with clean cooking will be established, and will meet at least once a year to ensure adequate coordination and monitoring of all the activities of the various projects.

The Contracting Authority will be responsible for all administrative, legal and financial issues relating to the contract, and will also monitor and supervise the implementation of the Action. The implementation of the activities will be under the oversight of the Contracting Authority's Programme Managers.

The Contractor will be responsible for day-to-day management of the project, mobilisation of the technical assistance and provision of outputs and reports.

The Steering Committee will oversee and validate the Action overall strategic direction, review implementation and provide guidance for planning.

5. PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

5.1 Monitoring and Reporting

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this Action will be a continuous process, and part of the implementing partner's responsibilities. To this aim, the implementing partner shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the Action and elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final reports. Every report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the Action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its results (Outputs and direct Outcomes) against the corresponding indicators to be determined at inception phase, using as reference the logframe matrix.

Indicators shall be sex disaggregated when applicable. Monitoring and reporting shall assess how the action is taking into account the rights-based approach and gender equality.

The Commission may undertake additional project monitoring visits both through its own staff and through independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission for independent monitoring reviews (or recruited by the responsible agent contracted by the Commission for implementing such reviews).

Roles and responsibilities for data collection, analysis and monitoring:

The implementing partner will specify, from the start of the Action, the indicators of the logical framework, the baseline and the targets. Particular emphasis will be placed on the inclusion of climate change aspects in national policies. The initial diagnosis of the implementing partner will provide useful elements for establishing a baseline.

The periodic monitoring and evaluation reports will make it possible to assess the overall performance of the partner implementing the action. The implementing partner will specify, from the start of the action, the indicators of the logical framework, the baseline and the targets. The initial diagnosis of the implementing partner will provide useful elements for establishing a baseline.

There is strong basis for assessing gender mainstreaming in the Action. The evaluation of the consideration of gender aspects will take into consideration the studies carried out during the review of the NDCs and the ECOWAS Programme for Mainstreaming Gender in Energy Access (ECOWGEN).

5.2 Evaluation

Having regard to the nature of the action, a mid-term and ex-post evaluations may be carried out for this Action or its components via an implementing partner.

With regard to the mid term evaluation, it will be carried out for assessment of the progress of the Action and suggestion of eventual solutions to identified issues as well as for learning purposes, in particular with respect to attract further funding, deepen activities, extend scope of Activities in future Actions and possible replicating and extending the geographical scope of the Action.

An ex-post evaluation is also envisaged for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision), taking into account in particular the fact that the results of the implemented interventions will provide information for further decisions with respect to clean cooking policy.

The evaluation reports may be shared with the partners and other key stakeholders following the best practice of evaluation dissemination. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, apply the necessary adjustments.

Evaluation shall assess how the action is taking into account the rights-based approach, gender equality and women's empowerment.

The financing of the evaluation may be covered by another measure constituting a Financing Decision.

5.3 Audit and Verifications

Without prejudice to the obligations applicable to contracts concluded for the implementation of this Action, the Commission may, on the basis of a risk assessment, contract independent audit or verification assignments for one or several contracts or agreements.

6. STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

The 2021-2027 programming cycle will adopt a new approach to pooling, programming and deploying strategic communication and public diplomacy resources.

It will remain a contractual obligation for all entities implementing EU-funded external actions to inform the relevant audiences of the Union's support for their work by displaying the EU emblem and a short funding statement as appropriate on all communication materials related to the actions concerned. This obligation will continue to apply equally, regardless of whether the actions concerned are implemented by the Commission, partner countries, service providers, grant beneficiaries or entrusted or delegated entities such as UN agencies, international financial institutions and agencies of EU member states.

However, action documents for specific sector programmes are in principle no longer required to include a provision for communication and visibility actions promoting the programmes concerned. These resources will instead be consolidated in Cooperation Facilities established by support measure action documents, allowing Delegations to plan and execute multiannual strategic communication and public diplomacy actions with sufficient critical mass to be effective on a national scale.

Appendix 1 REPORTING IN OPSYS

An Intervention (also generally called project/programme) is the operational entity associated to a coherent set of activities and results structured in a logical framework aiming at delivering development change or progress. Interventions are the most effective (hence optimal) entities for the operational follow-up by the Commission of its external development operations. As such, Interventions constitute the base unit for managing operational implementations, assessing performance, monitoring, evaluation, internal and external communication, reporting and aggregation.

Primary Interventions are those contracts or groups of contracts bearing reportable results and respecting the following business rule: 'a given contract can only contribute to one primary intervention and not more than one'. An individual contract that does not produce direct reportable results and cannot be logically grouped with other result reportable contracts is considered a 'support entities'. The addition of all primary interventions and support entities is equivalent to the full development portfolio of the Institution.

The present Action identifies as

Action level		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Action	Present action: all contracts in the present action
Contract level		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Group of contracts 1	One Contribution Agreement and/or one Contribution Agreement for Financial Instruments (CAFI) - cf. section 4.4.1 & 4.4.2

Appendix 2 LEAD FINANCE INSTITUTIONS

AECID	Agencia Espanola de Cooperacion Internacional al Desarrollo, Spain
AFD	Agence Française de Développement, France
AfDB	The African Development Bank
BIO	Belgian Investment Company for Developing Countries (BIO N.V./S.A.), Belgium
CDP	Cassa depositi e prestiti S.p.A., Italy
COFIDES S.A.	Compañía Española de Financiación del Desarrollo, Spain
DEG	Deutsche Investitions- und Entwicklungsgesellschaft mbH, Germany
EDFI MC	European Development Finance Institutions Management Company
EIB	European Investment Bank
FINNFUND	Finnish Fund for Industrial Cooperation Ltd - Teollisen yhteistyön rahasto Oy
FMO	Nederlandse Financierings-Maatschappij voor Ontwikkelingslanden, Netherlands
KfW	Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau, Germany
NEFCO	Nordic Environment Finance Corporation
PROPARCO	Groupe Agence Française de Développement, France
RVO	Rijksdienst voor Ondernemend Nederland (Netherlands Enterprise Agency), Netherlands
SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, Sweden
SIMEST	Società Italiana per le Imprese all'Estero, Italy
Swedfund	Swedfund International AB
WBG	World Bank Group (IBRD, IDA, IFC, MIGA, ICSID)