



# Women and Sustainable Energy in Developing Countries

Sustainable energy and Gender are key drivers for development and economic growth. These are two of the EU's main priorities in the field of international cooperation and development, manifested in the new Consensus for Development, the Agenda 2030 (SDG 5 & 7) and the EU Gender Action Plan II.



The Women and Sustainable Energy initiative in developing countries combines these two priorities. Based on the potential of increasing access to sustainable energy, this initiative builds upon past and current efforts that address gender imbalances women face in accessing resources, including energy.

Under this initiative, a call for proposals was launched in 2017 to foster women's entrepreneurship by facilitating their access to finance, to sustainable energy, to technical and business skills, and to vocational training in order to encourage women to engage in the sustainable energy sector. The initiative also supports political advocacy and awareness campaigns to improve the general environment of the energy sector and of the targeted communities.

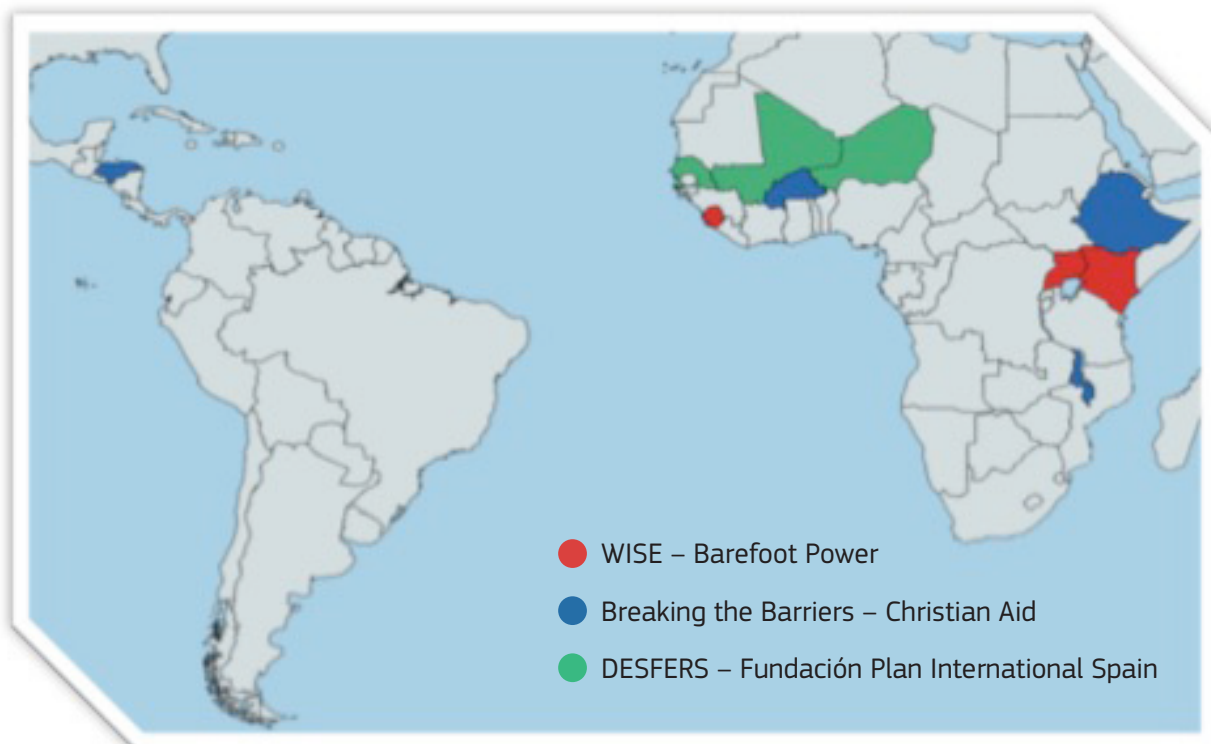
- This call received 120 eligible concept notes
- 18 applicants were invited to submit a full project proposal
- 3 projects were selected for receiving EU support

With a contribution of EUR 18.1 million, over five years, the EU supports the three projects to contribute to gender equality, improvement of women's lives and status, eradication of poverty, jobs creation and promotion of sustainable energy.



## The expected results are:

- Increasing the number of women in the sustainable energy sector' value chains, boosting women's active role, their entrepreneurship and improving their access to financial and energy services.
- Fostering the development of private sector and jobs creation in particular for women in developing countries.
- Promoting gender equality, improvement of women's lives and status, eradication of poverty and jobs creation.



## Selected Projects:

- **“WISE** - Women Increasing Sustainable Energy Access and Use”, is an action implemented by Barefoot Power together with three co applicants: Lutheran World Foundation, Mesics Foundation and Barefoot Solar Engineers Association of Sierra Leone.

The EU provides to this action EUR 5.5 million for a period of five years to help women establish sustainable businesses in Sierra Leone, Uganda and Kenya. The overall objective of the action is to provide women with capital grants, technical and business trainings and linkages with business incubators in the sustainable energy market.

- **“Breaking the barriers:** Promoting women entrepreneurship in sustainable energy value chains through innovative approaches” is an action based on the assumption that once women’s collective receive Sustainable Energy technical training, business mentoring and financial assistance, they can become business enterprises in the Sustainable Energy value chain. This action is led by Christian Aid together with seven local community NGOs operating in Africa and Honduras. With an EU

grant of EUR 4.9 million during a period of 3.5 years, this action sets its activities on increasing women’s production, marketing, and distribution of Sustainable Energy products and related services in Ethiopia, Honduras, Burkina Faso and Malawi.

- **“DESFERS** - Economic and Social Development of Women through Renewable Energy in the Sahel” is the third action managed by Fundación Plan International Spain and its seven partners, including Ministries and National Agencies for Renewables. It intends to facilitate access to women entrepreneurship in the sustainable energy sector in Senegal, Mali and Niger. The project will provide funding and training to women, allowing them to establish and launch micro-financial products in the sustainable energy sector. The European Union contributes with a grant of EUR 7.6 million to these activities, which will take place during a five years period.

### For more information contact:

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