

UP-SCALE: Building Skills, Capacities, and Learning for Civil Society

An Overview

What - UP-SCALE is categorized under the knowledge and capacity building arm of the ACCESS coalition, composed of 65 CSOs and practitioners with extensive experience in energy access. It will act as a knowledge aggregator of best practices and expert advice, while providing technical support. The UP-SCALE group will include experts from organizations based both in the global North and South.

Why - Involvement of CSOs on issues of energy access has increased alongside the growing global attention and action with the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and the development of SDGs. In particular, this learning group aims to accelerate the delivery of SDG7 and in turn, enhance the pace of achieving other SDGs.

Numerous CSOs have indicated that it would be beneficial to access knowledge outside of their own network that provides timely, specific support on proven processes, technologies, and methodologies for providing energy services to the poor. This is mainly due to the limited capacity of internal teams to provide suitable solutions, the limited understanding of the 'development dividend', and successful energy access processes among actors in the enabling environment (government, financiers, etc.), and the significant gap between knowledge demand and supply. In addition to this gap, lessons learned from provided solutions are not openly available to the CSOs working to provide similar solutions, therefore increasing the chance of repeating mistakes.

Added Value - The main actions that will add significant value include: growing the space to reach excellency by building on the ACCESS Coalition, improving coordination and collaboration between organizations, broadening learning outside the CSO space by engaging with key stakeholders, sharing/training of best practices between CSOs and other stakeholders, facilitating expert technical service, and closing the knowledge gap.

Outcomes - Enhanced coordination and collaboration amongst CSOs and others will increase credibility and capacity to respond effectively to current energy access challenges. The increased capacity of enabling environmental stakeholders, including government and financiers, and the new CSOs engaging in energy access will help to plan and deliver energy solutions for the poor in an inclusive and sustainable matter.

How - The two main work-streams that are necessary to make this initiative successful deal with gathering and creating knowledge as well as capacity building.

- **Knowledge gathering and creation** – document and share good practices by initially utilizing the most relevant experience and knowledge from current expert players in the Coalition as well as identify knowledge gaps and commission evidence-based research to address these gaps
- **Capacity building** – build capacity of ACCESS members, non-ACCESS CSOs entering the energy space and other key stakeholders (government and financiers) to effectively plan, delivery and monitor energy services for the poor, thereby ensuring inclusive and sustainable solutions on the ground. This consists of two facilities:
 - **Short-term:** to provide specific technical support
 - **Medium- and long-term:** facilitation processes to mentor and support specific action-oriented knowledge areas.

Next Steps - The current priority is to secure ownership of UP-SCALE among members, including understanding current information expertise and gaps within the coalition, gathering inputs and suggestions on the concept note in order to start securing funding to launch the initiative, and for its operation in the short term. Over the first year, quality, functional, and breakthrough objectives will be analyzed to develop an appropriate management structure. Following the use of required short-term external resources, the initiative aims to be self-sustainable in the mid to long run.