



SMART VILLAGES
New thinking for off-grid communities worldwide

ENERGY4IMPACT
ACCELERATING ACCESS TO ENERGY

West Africa Media Dialogue Senegal Workshop



Workshop Report 24

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SALY, SENEGAL

Key words:
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Smart Villages

We aim to provide policymakers, donors, and development agencies concerned with rural energy access with new insights on the real barriers to energy access in villages in developing countries—technological, financial and political—and how they can be overcome. We have chosen to focus on remote off-grid villages, where local solutions (home- or institution-based systems and mini-grids) are both more realistic and cheaper than national grid extension. Our concern is to ensure that energy access results in development and the creation of “smart villages” in which many of the benefits of life in modern societies are available to rural communities.

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About Energy4Impact

Energy4Impact (formerly known as GVEP) was launched in 2002 as a World Bank initiative and in 2006 it was registered as an NGO. The organization has offices in East Africa and in Senegal. The organization provides support to businesses that aim to accelerate access to energy in developing countries. Energy4Impact's basic philosophy rests on the premise that as opposed to direct donations, business development is likely to be more sustainable. Since its inception, Energy4Impact has supported more than 260 small and medium enterprises and 2,800 micro enterprises. It has also raised capital of US\$86 million and helped create 7,800 jobs in rural areas. Over 10 million people have been provided with improved access to energy through these projects.

In Senegal, Energy4Impact, in partnership with the Social & Ecological Management (SEM) fund, is leading on the implementation of two initiatives funded by the ENERGIA Network. The first initiative, “Energy opportunities for women in Senegal”, aims to support the development and growth of 250 women SMEs across the value chain, and to increase productive use of energy by women across the value chain. The second initiative, “Tenderizing Energy Policies in Senegal” aims to a) advocate for the integration of clear gender objectives within the SE4ALL national action plan and investment prospectus and to increase awareness of the importance of gender and energy amongst key regional SE4All stakeholders and b) to implement a national campaign on energy, women, children & health, and other key events. Thus, Energy4Impact is implementing a programme to support development and growth of energy focused businesses in 4 countries in Africa, including Senegal: The objective is to strengthen the capacity of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to provide access to energy to rural communities as well as to support them in productive uses of energy.

Publishing

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BACKGROUND

More than one billion people in the world still do not have electricity: over three billion cook on dirty, inefficient and harmful stoves, and four million people die prematurely each year as a result. The UN's Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) initiative aims to achieve universal access to modern energy services by 2030. Widespread recognition of the importance of this initiative led to energy access becoming one of the key themes running through the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted in September 2015. The Smart Villages Initiative aims to contribute to meeting the SDGs by providing an insightful "view from the front line" of the challenges of providing sustainable off-grid energy to remote villages as a catalyst for development and how they can be overcome.

Smart villages are proposed as a rural analogue to smart cities and could shift the balance of opportunities between cities and villages. While we may expect that their particular features will be context specific, common features will include access to good education and healthcare, better opportunities to earn a living, greater participation in governance processes, and more resilient communities. All these development benefits are enabled by energy access together with modern information and communication technologies.

The Smart Villages Initiative is evaluating the barriers to energy access in rural communities in developing countries and how those barriers can be overcome. Its focus is off-grid villages where local solutions (home-or institution-based systems, and mini-grids) are cheaper than national grid extension. Its aim is to generate new insights to inform the decisions and programmes of policy

makers, donors and development agencies concerned with rural energy access for development.

As an integral part of that activity, the Smart Villages Initiative aims to raise public awareness of rural energy access issues, sustainable energy technologies, and entrepreneurial approaches to energy in the developing world. To help meet this goal, we seek to promote objective, informed, and balanced coverage of the issues, challenges, and opportunities through media dialogue events for both regional and international media. In this way, we hope the main stakeholders—including policy makers, funders, entrepreneurs, civil society, and the general public, including potential smart villagers themselves—can be made aware of the potential of off-grid rural energy provision. We also provide them with appropriate information to permit informed discussion of the issue. We are targeting high-profile international media outlets as well as the leading media organisations in countries where rural energy access is important.

By holding these regional media dialogue events, we hope to gain insights from local journalists as well as introducing or updating them with some of the latest technological innovations in the area, together with the regulatory, finance and entrepreneurship/ business challenges and opportunities that apply in their region. In this manner, we hope to encourage a greater focus on this complex area that involves technology, business, politics and rural development. Despite its importance in terms of the magnitude of the affected populations, rural energy access and its impact has hitherto not been a mainstream media priority.

DETAILS

This 5th workshop took place in August 2016 in Saly, Senegal. In a new departure from previous workshops, it was decided to integrate the media event into the opening Smart Villages West African Regional Workshop. This was for a number of reasons. Firstly, the general theme of the workshop on the Water Energy and Food (WEF) Nexus and the depth of content being provided appeared to merit the attendance of journalists for the whole workshop. Secondly logistics were greatly simplified and costs reduced, an important factor given the extremely high costs of internal flights in the region. Thirdly, and reflecting feedback from previous workshops, both presenters and participants openly welcomed the opportunity to meet with journalists in this kind of forum and explain their work. Finally, it proved easier to attract journalists to this kind of event.

There is a separate report for the main workshop but it featured a mixture of briefings and case studies by local and international technical experts and practitioners, including local entrepreneurs. It had been intended to have a pre briefing for journalists but due to flight arrival times this proved impossible. Similarly, the original plan envisioned up to 4 separate breakout sessions for journalists during the course of the workshop. However, such was the interest of the journalists in the actual workshop programme that this was reduced to 2 and a final wrap-up. During these sessions the journalists were briefed on specialist topics of interest and available resources. Several of the participants also presented case studies of prototype smart villages and innovative renewable energy use.

Senegal was chosen as the venue because of support from our main workshop partner Energy4Impact and to enable participation from across the region. Simultaneous translation was provided in French and English.

In our selection process we sought to identify editors and senior journalists from all the countries in the region, both English and French-speaking, who would take an interest in both energy provision and Smart Villages. We selected print, broadcast, and new media journalists who showed an interest in energy, science, and technology, environmental, or development reporting. We drew upon previous contacts made through the Biosciences4Farming in Africa initiative and the suggestions of Anthony Kamara, press office for our partner SE4ALL. For Senegal, we received recommendations from Energy4Impact who were also announcing their relaunch during the workshop and were seeking media coverage.

Interest was high, and we had to initially limit our invites to one journalist per country excluding Senegal. This gave us participants from 12 countries - Nigeria, Ghana, Cameroun, Niger, Sierra Leone, Liberia Ivory Coast, Togo, Guinea Bissau, Burkina Faso, Mali and Benin. We then extended additional invites to Burkina Faso, Cameroun, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Niger and Nigeria. We were unable however to identify a suitable journalist from Gambia. All participated. The Smart Villages Initiative provided travel, accommodation, and expenses.

The main workshop received positive feedback from participating journalists and also from the experts who contributed their time and insights to the discussions. Whilst the theme was the Water Energy Food nexus, the expert practitioners in the region also viewed media engagement as crucial to their efforts to convince governments and other stakeholders of the possibilities and potential benefits of renewables in the first place. From the start, the journalists were proactive in asking questions during the sessions arranging interviews and immediately filing stories. This continued after the close of the workshop and a comprehensive selection are attached as appendices.

As mentioned in the introduction, the format and timing of the journalist specific sessions changed as a result of their enthusiastic engagement and immediate grasp of the issues. Rather than a series of background briefings, workshop leader Richard Hayhurst decided to focus more on addressing particular concerns and also generating more engagement by having the journalists present case studies to each other (included in appendices).

Behind this decision were two common concerns that had quickly emerged among the journalists during the main workshop. Since the majority were city based with limited travel budgets, the majority were more aware of international issues such as the SDGs than the renewables situation in their own countries. This was not helped by the lack of information available from official sources. Indeed, it was a common observation (and source of regret) that they had found local case studies extremely hard to find and put into wider national contexts. For some this was partly corrected by having the opportunity to meet key contacts from their own country at the meeting. The second concern was surprise at the widely varying levels of renewables penetration from country to country and resulting lack of regional strategies.

To address these concerns, Richard Hayhurst put together a wrap up presentation on the current state of technologies as seen in the field by the

Smart Villages team, story ideas that had arisen from previous workshops and a list of sources both local and international that could be used for background research.

In summary and as in previous workshops, the emphasis on showing the current state of renewables technology and resulting benefits placed in the overall context of local needs, the SDGs and COP21, led to a rapid understanding of and enthusiasm for the Smart Villages concept among the participating journalists and their commitment to follow its progress.

Following this 5th event, the Smart Village Initiative team leading the workshop continues that it was correct to include an emphasis on media engagement in the project activity. Furthermore, in this case, the decision to invite journalists to a main workshop and to adapt the journalist-specific activities flexibly according to feedback was justified.

Whilst the number of attendees was similar to previous workshops, many potential attendees could not be invited due to the prohibitive cost of flights in the region. Furthermore, there was a danger of disputing the balance and cohesion of the main workshop. However, a good balance (gender, experience, type of media) was achieved and the contribution, enthusiasm and professionalism of the journalists was extremely gratifying.

TWO CASE STUDIES

Two case studies about Burkina Faso presented by Grégoire B. Bazié:

Case 1: The WFE nexus [Water-Food-Energy] and the national biodigester Programme

Case 2: The WF nexus and the Lebda multifunctional platform

General Introduction

Burkina Faso is one of the least affluent nations in Africa and in the wider world, numbered at 183 on a global list of 188 countries in 2014. In other words, Burkina Faso is a poor country. On the basis of monetary revenue of 154, 061 CFA francs per year, more than 40% of Burkina Faso's population lives below the poverty line, with 47.5% living in rural environments, compared to 13.6% in urban environments. Burkina Faso is also poor in energy. The rate of access to electricity remains low (24%). The country's energy situation is worse in the countryside where the rate of access to electricity is below 10% (estimated at 9.3%).

Several energy programmes designed for residents in rural and semi-rural areas have been launched in this context of stark energy shortages and their recognised impact on access to other social services, in particular the transformation/processing of agricultural products and supply of water. The national programme of multifunctional platforms against poverty and the national programme of biodigesters are among these. We propose to present each of these two programmes to you, using different approaches. In the first case study involving the national programme of biodigesters we provide the overall facts. With the national programme of multifunctional platforms against poverty our approach is specifically related to a case of a multifunctional platform in Lebda.

Example 1

Water-Food-Energy Nexus: The case of biodigesters in the national programme of biodigesters in Burkina Faso

1. Presentation of the national programme of biodigesters and recorded results?

The overall objective of the national Programme of biodigesters in Burkina Faso (PNB-BF) is to create a permanent sector (viable, market-orientated) with several construction stakeholders building biodigesters to improve the living conditions of rural and semi-rural households in Burkina Faso. The programme was introduced by the public authorities in Burkina Faso with the support of foreign partners.

Biodigesters have been installed in almost all regions of Burkina Faso. From 2009 to 2014, 1,476 biodigesters were built in the region of Boucle du Mouhoun alone. 1,312 have been built in the central western part of the country. In 2014, a total of 6,446 biodigesters were built and in operation in Burkina Faso.

2. Benefits of the biodigester

The biodigester offers a number of advantages:

- **It contributes to the independence and energy security of its users; for example, it is estimated that each 6m³ biodigester built and used can produce the equivalent of 29 bottles of 12 kg butane gas bottles per year.**
- **It contributes to independence and food security because its organic fertiliser improves agricultural yields and the energy it generates can be used for the safe and healthy cooking of food, either for making meals or storing food.**

- The biodigester is a source of energy in itself, producing biogas that has no impact on the health of women and girls who use it. Wood fuel, on the other hand, causes the death of 4.3 million women and young girls every year, according to the World Health Organisation.

- The biodigester contributes to independence and food security because its organic fertiliser improves agricultural yields

- The biodigester helps combat climate change because the biogas it produces does not generate CO₂, a factor of global warming. Conversely, the predominant use of biomass as a source of domestic energy has had the parallel effect of reducing vegetation cover by 4% per year.

3. Obstacles to extending the programme of biodigesters

Work is certainly being undertaken to extend the use of biodigesters but there are still only a small number installed in the country. Most households with modest incomes are not able to acquire one because of the cost. Several obstacles are the cause of this situation:

- the purchase price remains relatively high despite efforts to reduce it in recent years: the price has dropped from 520,000 CFA francs in 2009 to 400,000 CFA francs in 2012. Since last year, the cost stands at 320,000 CFA francs

- poor use of technology on family farms;

- difficulties relating to the operation of certain installations resulting from the extensive driving of animals (poor availability of animal waste products) and water shortages at certain times of the year;

- Lack of trained stonemasons to ensure that construction takes place.

4. Perspectives

To overcome the obstacles mentioned and consider their impact, several solutions are being indicated by the PNB-BF leaders and partners.

In particular:

- Installing a credit system to improve financial accessibility to the technology;

- Better awareness of the nature of the programmes;

- Optimisation of the operation of biodigesters and the use of effluent in livestock production.

- The commitment of the new President of Burkina Faso, Roch Marc Christian Kaboré, to build 40,000 biodigesters during his five-year mandate.

The bioenergies sector, and particularly biogas, will see growth in the years to come, if various commitments are kept.

Example 2

The WEF nexus and the Lebda multifunctional platform

Introduction

The interrelation between the water, energy and food sectors leading to efficient development actions in rural environments arises from practical requirements and is vitally important. The case of Lebda is sufficient to illustrate this fact.

1. About Lebda

Geographical location

The village of Lebda is located in the central northern part of Burkina Faso, 125 kilometres from Ouagadougou, capital of Burkina Faso, and, more precisely, in the local county of Pissila, 25

kilometres from Kaya, a county seat in the central northern region.

- Population and employment activities

The population of Lebda is varied but consists mainly of Mossi people. Agriculture is the main activity in the village. Among other products, residents produce millet and sorghum.

2. Experience of the Water-Food-Energy nexus

- The issue of water

In Lebda the main problem is access to drinking water. They were still forced to walk some distances to access drinking water. The platform was able to help with these issues in terms of distribution if an appropriate device had been installed. Perhaps unaware of this, they presented the issue of water as an isolated problem and asked us to come and drill some wells.

- The issue of energy

The problem of access to energy in Lebda was resolved by installing a multifunctional platform that produced electricity from diesel. With this solution proving expensive, a hybrid system with a solar energy device was used that guarantees the supply of electricity during the day.

- The issue of food

Installation of the multifunctional platform has significantly eased hardship by being able to guarantee family meals. The Chair of the Nongtaaba Association who manages the multifunctional platform stated, “before the platform was installed, it was really hard for the women in the village because there was no mill. We had to go either to Kaya (15 km) or to neighbouring villages and we encountered many difficulties. During the winter period, it was even more challenging. Coming back was sometimes a problem. Some

women injured themselves on the way home. Among the women who did not travel to these villages, some had to crush the millet while pregnant.” Installing the multifunctional platform allows the residents of Lebda to benefit from various other services in the village, particularly since the electricity network was installed. These include: milling and husking of cereal crops, charging of portable batteries, mobile phones and welding equipment; and lighting for social and business services (schools, colleges, maternity services, businesses, homes).

Activities linked to the existence of the platform had become viable for women in the association. The following data taken from the multifunctional platform on 30 June 2014 reflects:

Revenue: 3,269,115

Expenditure: 3,106,325

Profits + donations: 462,790

Savings: 447,810

Number of clients since opening: 116,113

3. Lessons learned

-The presence of water does not automatically mean that all water needs are being met.

Village residents in Lebda have reservoirs but they have a drinking water problem, even when it rains in the rainy season.

-The role that traditionally progressive leaders can play.

Naaba Baongo of Lebda played an important role in the installation of the multifunctional platform in Lebda. A retired former surgeon, he preferred to follow the advice of his late father and rejoin his village where he works for the good of its people. Since then he has been able to dedicate his time to others. Without him, it is unlikely that the project would have seen the light of day as he had to work hard to convince the chief Moaga of its benefits.

With regard to improving the living conditions of people in rural areas and the effectiveness of the water-food-energy-nexus, the combined effort to extend these platforms is becoming strategically imperative for development stakeholders in our countries.

The opportunity I had on 11 July 2014 to take a group of journalists from the association of which I am leader, to this village, allowed them to absorb what is happening there and made it possible for me to tell you about the experience of Lebda. These journalists subsequently produced articles that, without doubt, lent support to the campaign for people living in rural areas to have access to energy. Today there are more than 1,000 multifunctional platforms in Burkina Faso. This is another occasion to welcome the determination of SMART VILLAGES leaders to

involve the media in our development campaigns. To be viable, development in a rural environment requires the three-part approach of water, food and energy and the involvement of all actors concerned, including the media.

General Conclusion

In an environment of energy poverty and risk of desertification in Burkina Faso, the multifunctional platforms initiative, particularly in Lebda, and the construction of biodigesters in rural areas, are relevant options worth consolidating. The initiative has allowed basic social services (water, food, etc.) to be provided to rural communities in our country. By way of conclusion and paraphrasing a slogan from the programme, we say, “Let’s improve life in the village using our three-part water-energy-food approach”.

ANNEX 1: PROGRAMME

0900 Registration

0930 Welcome Address

Mr. Louis Seck, Energy4Impact

0945 Introduction to the Smart Villages Initiative

Dr. John Holmes, Co-Leader, Smart Villages Initiative (SVI)

1015 Note 1: What are the global challenges arising from the interrelation between food, water, and energy and how do these impact at a local level in West Africa

1045 Tea Break

1115 Key Note 2: SE4All and how AELG are pooling their complementary skills to build a new momentum for a new vision and new solutions to the energy challenge.

1145 Q&A

1215 Lunch Break

1330 Panel Session1: What are the synergies and trade-offs between water, food and energy and how can these be balanced in a rural context?

1415 Q&A

1440 Tea Break

1510 Introduction to Breakout Session 1: Questions will focus on how the challenges surrounding the WEF Nexus impact on women and what the global community can do to overcome these.

1515 Breakout Session 1

1615 Summary of Breakout Session 1

1645 Closing Remarks day 1

Thursday, 25 August

- 0915 **Keynote speech 3:** What is the role of multilaterals and governments to facilitate WEF?
- 0945 **Q&A Keynote speech**
- 1000 **Elevator Pitches:** Entrepreneurs facilitating the interrelation between food, water and energy
- 1030 **Tea Break**
- 1100 **Panel Session 2:** What are the sectoral barriers, how can these sectoral barriers be overcome and how can the sector work in synergy and avoid conflicts of interest?
- 1145 **Q&A Panel Session 3**
- 1215 **Lunch Break**
- 1330 **Breakout Session 2:** How can the removal of these sectoral barriers spur rural development in West Africa?
- 1430 **Summary of Breakout Session 2**
- 1500 **Tea Break**
- 1530 Discussion of **Key Messages** for Policy Makers
- 1600 **Closing Remarks**

ANNEX 2: LIST OF JOURNALISTS

Mr Didier Hubert Madafime, Benin

Journalist at the National Radio of Benin, where he currently occupies the position of Head of the Environment and Health Desk. Winner of several prizes, the main ones being: the Transparency International Investigation Award, the Ozone Award and two climate awards organized by the Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance. Has covered major events including the Earth Summit in Johannesburg in 2002, the Paris Climate Summit in Paris in 2015 and the 2016 Climate Conference in Marrakech, Morocco. He also reported on the 12th and 13th Desertification Conference in Windhoek, Namibia and Ankara, Turkey respectively. With a bachelor's degree in law and a post-graduate degree in journalism, he is currently in the second year of a masters' degree at the University of Abomey-Calavi in risk and disaster management.

Mr Grégoire Bazomboué Bazié, Burkina Faso

Grégoire Bazomboué Bazié is a journalist experienced in several fields -

Economics, Politics, Culture, Water, Energy, Environment - from Burkina Faso. In November, 2013 with other Burkina journalists, he founded Journalists and Communications Officers for Renewable Energies and Sustained Development (JED). Since May 2015 he has been Coordinator for French Speaking Countries of PIDA Journalists Network. PIDA is an ambitious Program for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA). Grégoire has also acted since November 2015 as the Editor of Burkina Demain (<http://burkinademain.com>), an online news site which is focused on sustainable development issues. Before creating Burkina Demain, Grégoire worked from 2010 to 2015 at Lefaso.net, the most visited Media online in Burkina Faso finishing as Editor in Chief. He worked also at the daily "Le Pays" during four years before leaving for Lefaso.net.

Ms Josiane Kouagheu, Cameroun

Josiane Kouagheu is an experience journalist based in Cameroun currently working for a number of outlets including Quotidien de Jour Cameroun, Reuters and Afrique Monde. She has a diploma in journalism from the Institut Universitaire du Golfe de Guinée. Over the last five years she has also worked for iCameroon as US correspondent and Audy Magazine in Chad as well as Gouducamer.com. During this time, Josiane has won a number of prestigious journalism prizes, including Best Investigative Journalism in Cameroun, 2014, Best Amateur Video Reportage in Ethiopia, 2015, African Union Youth Hero, 2015 and First Prize, International Award for Womens Issues, 2016.

Mr Mathias Mouendé, Cameroun

Mathias Mouendé Ngamo is a reporter for Le Jour based at the Douala office contributing to the daily Society and Culture columns. He was the first winner of the "Best Press Photography" at the national contest "Mediations Press Trophies" in 2012, and won again in 2015. Mathias is a member of the Collective of Cameroonians bloggers (Cbc), running two blogs online. In February 2016, for his blog specializing on issues related to safeguarding the environment in Africa, www.biocamer.wordpress.com, he received the award for "Best cybernetic newspaper article" in Forest Media Awards in Yaounde. The Biocamer blog was also twice nominated at the final of the 10th edition of the prestigious blog contest "The Bobs", organized by German Radio Television Deutsche Welle. Mathias also runs a micro program on the environment called "Afrika Bio" on the Pan-African TV channel Vox Africa. In April 2015, with two other journalists from the 3 M collective, he organized a photo exhibition called "Look Citizen".

Mr Charles Okine, Ghana

Charles Okine is the Deputy Editor of the biggest selling financial newspaper in Ghana, Graphic Business. He has been a business and financial correspondent since the year 2000 and has risen through the ranks from ordinary reporter attached to the news desk to the present position. Charles holds a Second Degree in Media Management, Ghana Institute of Journalism, Graduate School of Research and Communication Studies, First Degree in Marketing, Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration and Diploma in Journalism, Ghana Institute of Journalism. He is a Fellow of Biosciences for Farming in Africa. (B4FA). He holds certificates in business and financial reporting from prominent universities such as the Wharton Business School, University of Pennsylvania, USA, International Institute of Journalism, Berlin (InWent Programme), Rhodes University, Grahamstown, SA (Reuters Programme) among many others. He is a multiple award winner in Ghana in the area of journalism.

Mr Emmanuel Kobla Dogbevi, Ghana

Emmanuel Kobla Dogbevi is Managing Editor of Ghana Business News, the leading business portal in the country, which he founded in 2008. Having won the Ghana Journalists Association (GJA) Best Anti-Corruption Reporter Award for 2012, he gained international recognition by becoming the first Ghanaian to be awarded a Knight Bagehot Fellowship at Columbia University, making him the only Ghanaian and only the seventh from Africa on the list of close to 400 fellows in the 40 years of the Fellowship. With a long standing interest, he writes extensively on the environment and sustainability with many of his articles cited in books and academic journals.

Ms Kadiatou Thierno Diallo, Guinea

Kadiatou Thierno Diallo has been a journalist for the national daily Horoya since 2008, after

19 years in the Guinean press agency where she covered two beats: Woman Media and Economic Development. In addition, she also covered the Department of Energy and Environment where she had to report on the issues of Water, Energy and Environment. This gave her the opportunity to cover the construction of the Garafiri and Kaléta dams and then the development of the Fouta and Souapiti dam projects (two dams that are being studied and realized in the country). At Horoya newspaper she now deals with issues related to health and economy. In Guinea, she is the Vice President of the Association of Journalists of Guinea, and internationally she serves as the International Federation of Gender Journalists' (West Africa) Coordinator and as a member of the Gender council in the IFJ with headquarters in Brussels, as well as being the contact point of the inter-African network for the development and defense of women in the media (FAMEDEV), headquartered in Harare.

Mr Issouf Kamagate, Ivory Coast

Journalist and Head of the Economy section on the Fratmat.info website (online organ of the Fraternité Matin government group). Nominated for the 2014 edition of the Ebony (Best National Journalists Competition) in the online press category. Also nominated for the World Bank's Best Development Journalist in 2014. Member of the journalists' network for combating climate change, a member of the journalists' network for the promotion of renewable energies and energy efficiency.

External partner for the Ecofin Agency, focal point of the African Export Import Bank (Afreximbank) and the Regional Stock Exchange (Brvm)

Ms Sethou Banhoré, Ivory Coast

A journalist since 1997, Sethou Banhoré is currently at the Fraternité Matin Investigations Department where she works on different themes of health, education, environment, women's rights

and children's affairs. Holding a degree in Literature and a BA in Sociology obtained at the University Félix Houphouët-Boigny in Abidjan / Cocody, she has worked in various newspapers, specialising in social issues. With over 20 years of experience, she considers her professional career was crowned in 2014, by being winning the "Super Ebony", an annual award for the best journalist in Cote d'Ivoire judged by the quality and relevance of the subjects treated.

Mr Henry Karmo, Liberia

Henry Karmo is Legislative Bureau chief of the FrontPageAfrica local daily and online edition of Liberia West Africa. His strong interest in Developmental Journalism has earned him contracts as a Contributor to several international news agencies including, the Chinese News agency and the West Africa Democracy radio in Senegal. Henry holds a Diploma in Journalism from the International School of Journalism run by the Liberian Broadcasting system (State Radio) and is also a Information Technology and Networking student at the Blue Crest University.

Mr Youba Konate, Mali

Youba Konate is editor-in-chief of the twice-weekly Malian ZENITH-BALE and a contributor to many local bodies involved with drinking water and energy issues. He is also a founding member and current president of RJEPA-Mali (Network of Journalists for the Promotion of Drinking Water and Sanitation) which was established in Mali in 2006. In addition, he is a founding member and president of the Network of Malian Journalists for Renewable Energies and the Network of West African Journalists for Renewable Energies.

Ms Tina Abdou Saleye, Niger

Tina Hadizatou Abdou Saleye holds a diploma in audiovisual journalism from the Institute for Training of Information and Communication Technologies of the Niger (IFTIC) and a Master's

degree in Communication from Enterprises obtained at the African Institute of Transformation, Mali. She initially worked for 5 years at Africable Télévisions (Mali-based Pan-African Channel) as a Journalist-Presenter before joining the Malian office of the African Development Bank (ADB). After one year she became part of the team in charge of implementing the Irrigation Development Programme in the Baní region and in Sélingué (PDI-BS) before finally returning to Niger in 2012 where she became Brand and Communication Manager of Ecobank Niger. She then decided to create her own communication agency in December 2013. As part of her activities she also managed Nomade Productions producing numerous shows. Throughout her career, Tina has participated several times in international meetings not only as a journalist-reporter but also as a participant and organizer. She is an active member of several networks and organizations including the West African network of journalists on sanitation and water.

Mr Ousmane Dambadji, Niger

After being a journalist for several private media, Ousmane Dambadji quickly created his own newspaper "THE UNION" for which he currently acts as Publishing Director. Active member of ANEPI (Nigerian Association Independent Press Publishers) and the Press House, Ousmane Dambadji has become an emblematic figure of the struggles for the defense of the right to expression for journalists and the active participation of women and young people in development issues. His many roles include President of the Nigerian Network of Journalists for Education and Development (RENJED) since 2007, Président President of the Network of Journalists for Water Hygiene and Sanitation (REJEA) since 2010, Président Chairman of the International Symposium of Media for Development Sustainable on the horizon 2030 (SIMED) since 2015, President of the Francophone Press Union (UPF) section of Niger since January 2016, Main contact for partnership and resource mobilization in West

Africa for WASH-JN Afrique de West since 2013 and International Consultant in Journalism and Communication for Development since 2008. He has facilitated several training workshops in all the regions of Niger for the groups and associations of women and young journalists to foster their participation in the processes of development of the country and the fight against extreme inequalities between men and women. Ousmane Dambadji is also the laureate of the NGO International OXFAM - Niger in 2015 (The world's companion cultivate) having received the prize for the best press article on women's access to agricultural land in Niger. At the sub-regional level, Ousmane Dambadji is the Executive Secretary of the West African Network of Journalists for Education and Development and main contact within the West African Network for Water and Sanitation. Development issues.

Ms Hope Moses, Nigeria

Hope Moses-Ashike is a graduate of Education/Political Science from University of Nigeria Nsukka, and with a Post Graduate Diploma in Journalism from Times Journalism Institute.

Hope currently works as a Senior Correspondent, covering Money Market and Finance for over 10 years now, with BusinessDay Newspaper, Lagos.

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SMART VILLAGES

New thinking for off-grid communities worldwide

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Energy4Impact (formerly known as GVEP) was launched in 2002 as a World Bank initiative and in 2006 it was registered as an NGO. The organization has offices in East Africa and in Senegal. The organization provides support to businesses that aim to accelerate access to energy in developing countries. Energy4Impacts' basic philosophy rests on the premise that as opposed to direct donations, business development is likely to be more sustainable. Since its inception, Energy4Impact has supported more than 260 small and medium enterprises and 2,800 micro enterprises. It has also raised capital of US\$86 million and helped create 7,800 jobs in rural areas. Over 10 million people have been provided with improved access to energy through these projects.

In Senegal, Energy4Impact, in partnership with the Social & Ecological Management (SEM) fund, is leading on the implementation of two initiatives funded by the ENERGIA Network. The first initiative, "Energy opportunities for women in Senegal", aims to support the development and growth of 250 women SMEs across the value chain, and to increase productive use of energy by women across the value chain. The second initiative, "Tenderizing Energy Policies in Senegal" aims to a) advocate for the integration of clear gender objectives within the SE4ALL national action plan and investment prospectus and to increase awareness of the importance of gender and energy amongst key regional SE4All stakeholders and b) to implement a national campaign on energy, women, children & health, and other key events. Thus, Energy4Impact is implementing a programme to support development and growth of energy focused businesses in 4 countries in Africa, including Senegal: The objective is to strengthen the capacity of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to provide access to energy to rural communities as well as to support them in productive uses of energy.