



QUARTELY REPORT

2021

ETHIOPIAN WOMEN IN ENERGY
ASSOCIATION (EWiEn)

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MESSAGE

Filagot Tesfaye, President, EWiEn



Energy significantly influences the life of communities. It is very essential to meet quality life, social and economic prosperity in a society. Energy poverty is a major challenge in Ethiopia and such lack of access to energy has proved to disproportionately affect women as the result of their role as the main caretakers at the household level. Apart from women's vulnerability to lack of access to energy, women participation and representation in the energy sector is also very minimal. Ethiopian Women in Energy Association (EWiEn) aims to address these challenges women face both as a partaker in the energy sector and consumer. EWiEn provides a platform for collaboration and experience sharing, promotion to increase visibility of women working in the sector, and mentorship, training, and information sharing for its members. Thank you to the support of GIZ EPE and USAID Power Africa (East Africa Energy Program), EWiEn has achieved a milestone.

The past three months have been productive in building EWiEn's capacity to deliver its goals. EWiEn was able to deliver tasks planned for the first quarter of the year 2021. Major events were carried out as planned and programs under EWiEn were kicked off. There was also an increase in membership and digital presence increasing the visibility of EWiEn. In general, the work that has been achieved is laying the groundwork for the activities that will be carried out for the remainder of the year.

The major plan that has been agreed by the leadership and EWiEn members was to strengthen the institution's capacity to deliver its mission. In order To achieve this, EWiEn leadership has reached out to several organizations that are working in the Ethiopian Energy sector. In the first quarter of this year EWiEn has partnered with GIZ EPE and USAID Power Africa in setting up office space, hiring staff, and broadening the reach at which EWiEn operates. We are grateful for the new partnerships created and the agreements signed in this quarter. EWiEn with its partnership with other organizations will advocate the role of women as change agents, not only as consumers of energy, so that to secure the gender balance in the sector.

Alongside, EWiEn has carried out events which aimed to promote women participation in the energy sector and avail a platform for connecting and empowering. EWiEn also increase the number of its members and widen its reach to other regions of Ethiopia. This has been backed with its engaging online presence both through its website and social media platforms.

Read more about this in the full report. I hope you enjoy reading it.

April 2021

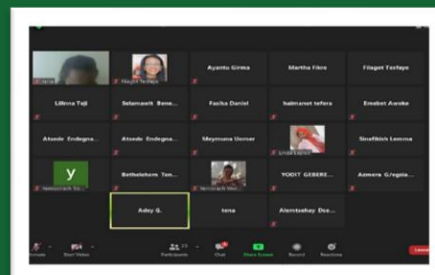
COVID-19 RESPONSE

EWiEn has conducted assessment study on the “Impact of COVID-19 pandemic in Ethiopian energy sector”. EWiEn’s study is part of a publication on the impact of COVID 19 on Africa’s energy sector and the role of RE to empower a long term and sustainable recovery by RES4Africa with partnership of RES4Africa, UNECA, SAPP, and SDA Bocconi. The goal of the project was to identify the impacts of COVID 19 on the Ethiopian energy sector and create a basis for future intervention to aid in mitigating adverse effects and to prepare the power sector for such events in the future. During this quarter the final report of the study has been disseminated to our partners.

The report elaborates the Economic Impacts of COVID-19 on a global, African and national scale. It also discusses the impact of the pandemic on African electrical systems. The report expressed that the pandemic had a great impact on the Ethiopian electricity sector, and shows that the local energy consumption rates were declining while the export supply has increased during the time of February to March 2020. It also predicted that most of the impacts on the electricity sector observed during this period will continue to persist if not worsen.

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected all of us in different ways. It also had a massive impact on EWiEn’s functionalities. Carrying out EC meetings, holding events, and other tasks were halted because of COVID-19. Despite all these challenges EWiEn is coping with the new normal. Since the onset of the pandemic in early March 2020, our EC meetings were being held virtually and the leadership has been resilient to continue planned activities.

COVID precautions were being implemented at all our events. Participants are required to wear masks and keep their distance. The number of participants has been limited in all our events in accordance with the countries restriction measures.



OFFICE ESTABLISHMENT

EWiEn made a great stride, in the past quarter, in improving and strengthening its capacity as an institution. Office space was established and new staff was hired.

This will place the associations in a better position to carry out the tasks planned for the coming period. It will enable the institution to run regular networking events, discussion forums, workshops, mentoring programs and expand its partnership with other associations, public institutions, donor organizations, and the private sectors



MEET OUR STAFF

YEMISSIRACH SISAY PROJECT COORDINATOR

Yemissirach Sisay has worked as the co-founder and chief executive officer of an innovative energy startup company. She has done research on solar and energy demand-side management programs at Ethiopian Electric Utility. She has received intensive incubation program training on entrepreneurial skills, leadership, team building, business development, and networking skills.

Yemissirach is an electrical engineer with a BSc in electrical and computer engineering from Adama Science and Technology University. She is interested in innovative renewable energy solutions that will improve rural electrification.



Partnerships

In the first quarter of the year 2021, EWiEn has signed collaboration and support agreements with two organizations.

GIZ ENERGY PROGRAMME ETHIOPIA (EPE) SIGNED A LOCAL SUBSIDY AGREEMENT

[EWiEn signed a local subsidy agreement with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für International Zusammenarbeit \(GIZ\) GmbH Energy Programme Ethiopia in January 2021.](#) The main objective of the agreement is contributing towards increasing the engagement of women in the Ethiopia energy sector. The agreement provides support for a number of actions that are part of EWiEn's annual plan.



EWIEN AND RES4AFRICA SIGNED AN AGREEMENT.

[EWiEn signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Renewable Energy Solutions for Africa Foundation \(RES4Africa\) on 24th March 2021,](#) to join efforts in supporting the empowerment and participation of women and young people in the Events.

Membership

In the last quarter, EWiEn increased its members both in numbers and diversification. During the first quarter, EWiEn registered 16 new members.



Social Media Presence

EWiEn has also improved its activity on social media. Different social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and website were used to share opportunities, ideas, and important information in the energy sector.



Events

Celebration of International Women's Day

EWiEn, EPE, and the Ministry of Water, Irrigation, and Energy (MoWIE) commemorated international women's day with a learning and awarding event held on March 19th, 2021. The event aimed to create awareness on gender equality, understanding the role of women in the energy sector, and recognizing the women forerunners at MOWIE. The event was held at MOWIE's assembly hall and attended by 60 MOWIE's employees and other stakeholders.



Bethelhem Tenker giving training on gender bias

The event consisted of a panel discussion on building a community that prompts women's rights in the energy sector, experience sharing session, and training and discussion on gender bias, women empowerment, and equal rights.

Attendees have shared their opinions, and raised questions to the presenters on women's career development, and overcoming bias in the energy sector. Women who improved their career despite the challenges that they faced were awarded and honored. The award was given by the Minister of Energy, Dr. Frehiwot Woldehana and Samson Tolosa, Duputy director of GIZ EPE”



Filagot Tesfaye, president of EWiEn, presenting

Launching and Learning event

The Ethiopian Women in Energy Association's (EWiEn) new chapter in Sidama and SNNPR region was launched on 25th March 2021 in collaboration with USAID PowerAfrica, and GIZ EPE. The Chapter was officially kicked off at an event held at Hawassa, Haile Resort 276KM from Addis Ababa. The main purpose of the launch was to broaden EWiEn's presence in other regions of Ethiopia.



entrepreneurs presenting their work

The event has created a platform for visibility, networking and empowerment. EWiEn was officially launched and introduced to various stakeholders in the two regions. Presentations, panel discussions, and networking forums were conducted regarding women and energy in Ethiopia.

The event was attended by SNNPR and Sidama region Government officials from energy bureau, women entrepreneurs within the energy sector, lecturers and researchers from Hawassa University, female students from Hawassa University, local energy solution providers, gender advocates, media, and other stakeholders working on the energy.



Attendees of the launching event

LEARNING VISIT TO HAWASSA VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTER



Training on installation, operation, and maintenance of solar systems

A visit to Hawassa Vocational Training Center (HVTC) was organized to provide a learning platform for university girls, women entrepreneurs, and women working in the energy sector. The participants were acquainted with basic knowledge on solar PV technologies with the support of the instructors and the management at the center.

The training center is well-known for practical training of installation, operation, and maintenance of solar mini-grid, solar PV, and improved cooking stove technologies. The participants have testified that the visit has broadened their knowledge as they saw the practical application of their studies at the university. Some of them have expressed that they got interest to work particularly on the Solar PV technologies.



Training on rooftop solar system

Mentorship program

EWiEn has launched its mentorship program for its members this quarter. The first chapter of this program will create an opportunity for two mentees by connecting them with a mentor that has vast experience in construction, supply chain management, and business development in the energy sectors.