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ENERGY EFFICIENCY FOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (EE4D)

ENERGY EMPOWERS EAST AFRICA

Unlocking the Benefits of Modern Energy Access for Women

OVERVIEW

USAID’s Energy Empowers East Africa program encourages women to use efficient electric equipment to improve the productivity and grow their businesses. Affordable access to clean energy leads to higher incomes, improved economic resilience and better air quality.

The program helps women launch new businesses and improve the productivity of existing businesses by improving access to electric equipment for food preparation, cold chain preservation, tailoring, sewing, grinding, healthcare, and more.

Energy access programs have contributed to increase the amount of available energy supplied in East African countries, but less has been done to stimulate energy demand. Women are particularly affected by low access to electricity, as they are twice as likely to work in the informal sector on manual tasks, have little access to business development knowledge, rarely benefit from capital and financing opportunities, and commonly undertake more unpaid domestic tasks and therefore suffer from greater time poverty.

Energy Empowers East Africa

Supporting Women to Use Electricity for Production

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OPERATING AGENT AND IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

Berkeley Lab manages and operates the program and works closely with Clean Energy Enthusiasts (CEE) who implements the program locally in Uganda.

MAIN ACTIVITIES



Evidence Based Assessment

Community-based participatory surveys are conducted to gather information on the barriers that prevent women entrepreneurs from accessing efficient and productive electric equipment. Through analyzing data from questionnaires, interviews and focus group discussions, the team identifies income-generating activities where the uptake of efficient electric equipment has significant benefits for women-run enterprises.



Finance

Assistance on the development of business plans for a selected number of women entrepreneurs are offered to help women entrepreneurs to access financing. The team also organizes matchmaking events to bring together women entrepreneurs, financing houses, equipment vendors, utility officers, government officials from the Ministries of Gender and Energy, women groups associations, and entrepreneurial support programs to increase uptake of productive and efficient equipment.



Capacity Building

Training programs dedicated to women entrepreneurs are conducted to build their capacity on business development opportunities, energy efficiency, financing access and to address the barriers identified in the evidence-based assessment. The team organizes customized workshops in the form of handholding activities to provide business development support. During the sessions, the team showcases and organizes demonstrations of productive and efficient electric equipment, and brings in local utilities and special guests to share success stories.



National Impacts

Development of Action Plans and policy briefs are drafted in collaboration with policy makers and program developers to impel a more conducive policy and regulatory environment for gender mainstreaming in energy access. The team also organizes national events that emphasize the role of women as agents of change in promoting clean, affordable, and efficient energy use and as active citizens participating in the country's economic development.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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